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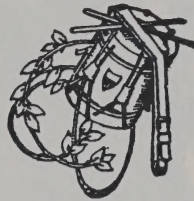
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History of Leesburg
and
Plain Township



Compiled by
JAMES W. ARMSTRONG
1914

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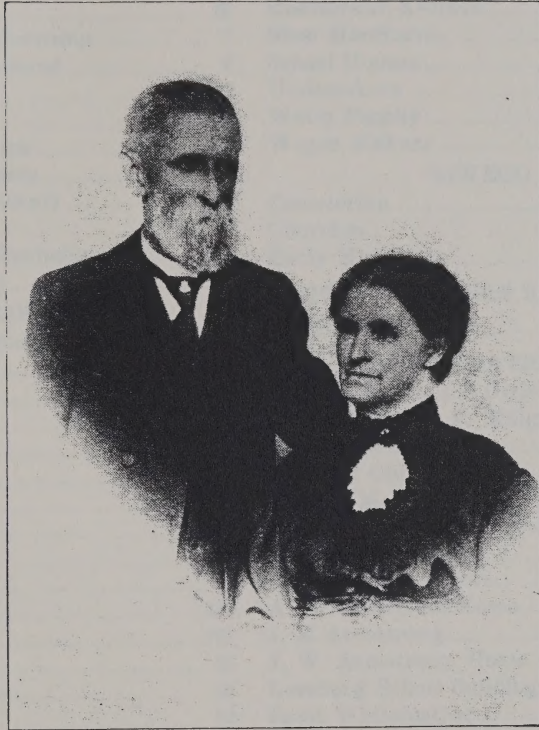
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The Author and His Wife



Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Armstrong

INDEX

PLAIN TOWNSHIP

Bone Prairie.....	Page 14
Berst Family.....	33
Beagle Family.....	43
Hon. J. B. Chapman.....	41
Cunningham Family.....	40
Harlan Family.....	25
Irvine Family.....	29
Indians of Plain Township.....	7
Indian Burying Ground.....	9
Miami Chiefs.....	17
Musquawbuck.....	11
Old Settler Meetings.....	35
Pioneers of Township.....	20
Pioneer Life (Incident).....	32
Rippey Family.....	47
Soldiers of Plain Township.....	160
Thompson Family.....	38

LEESBURG

James W. Armstrong.....	191
Barbers.....	123
Band.....	165
Butchers.....	132
Metcalf Beck.....	69
Blacksmiths.....	130
Christian Church.....	111
First Cemetery.....	71
Disastrous Fires.....	87
David Rodabush.....	89
Dry Goods Men.....	119
Druggists.....	121
First Merchants.....	65
First Court Session.....	55
First Residents.....	52
Grocerymen.....	121
Hotel Keepers.....	118
Harness Makers.....	122
Hardware Dealers.....	123
Town Incorporated.....	115
Intermediate Business Men.....	116
First Jail.....	82
Liverymen.....	132
Lodges and Societies.....	151

M. E. Church Circuit.....	97
Hon. George Moon.....	94
Newspapers.....	128
Present Day Business Men.....	134
Prominent Citizens.....	90
Physicians.....	127
P. L. Runyan.....	76
Restaurant Keepers.....	121
Shoe Merchants.....	129
School Houses.....	58
Undertakers.....	125
Watts Family.....	91
Wagon-Makers.....	133

OSWEGO

Cemeteries.....	171
Churches.....	172
Early History.....	167
TIPPECANOE LAKE Resorts.....	175
MONOQUET.....	179

ILLUSTRATIONS

John C. Beagle and Orrin Watts.....	46
Family of James P. Knight.....	84
After Fire of 1889.....	88
Group of Old Timers.....	90
Present M. E. Church.....	108
J. C. Murray and Residence.....	110
David K. Brown.....	122
Home of Mrs. Brown.....	122
A. H. Brown and Home.....	138
J. E. Armstrong.....	140
J. W. Armstrong Home.....	146
Leesburg School Building.....	146
Jacob Whiteleather.....	150
W. H. Stanley Residence.....	150
H. A. Dye Residence.....	156
F. J. Gibbard Residence.....	156
George Thomas Residence.....	160
O. D. Ervin Residence.....	160
Oswego's First Business House.....	168
Oswego School House.....	172
C. C. Beane.....	174
Stony Ridge Hotel.....	176

ERRATA

John C. Beagle was born near Pierceton, Ind., instead of Bone Prairie, and his father, Calvin Beagle, came to Indiana from New York state, instead of Michigan. Page 43.

Joseph A. Irvine died September 24, 1914, and J. C. Hill is now cashier of the Peoples Bank. Page 29.

Chas. Thomas succeeded J. E. Droud as Leesburg's postmaster August 1, 1914. Page 136.

There seems to be some difference of opinion concerning the big fire in 1889, but according to local lodge records and other data at hand December 31 is correct. Page 87.

INTRODUCTION

All are more or less interested in reading or hearing incidents pertaining to the building of their homes, the organization of their county, township and town, and the circumstances connected with the lives of the early settlers of the county who labored and toiled incessantly under many adverse surroundings that we might enjoy the privileges and comforts that we as citizens of the garden spot of the world now possess.

Recognizing this fact, we have concluded to spend some time in writing up the early history of Leesburg and Plain township, its business and business men, interspersed with such legends and incidents as we could gather of those days when the sturdy pioneer laid the foundation for the wealth and business thrift that surrounds us today.

The task has proved more arduous than we at first contemplated, but we will perform it to the best of our ability and leave our readers judge as to its merits or demerits.

RETROSPECTIVE

FAR AWAY in the dim, unwritten history of the past; long years before the rich valley of the Mississippi was dotted with mighty cities and its plains covered with beautiful towns and villages; long before its hills and dales were cut up by hundreds of miles of railroads, carrying its thousands of hustling business men hither and thither with almost lightning speed, gathering up the rich products of her fertile plains and pouring them into the lap of the eastern world; long before the illustrious Franklin had conceived the idea of bottling the lightning or Morse had thought of harnessing this fiery steed and making him do his bidding; ages before Edison thought of making this subtle power turn the darkest night to that of beautiful moonlight, or it had entered the mind of man that through its instrumentality it was possible to talk to his fellows, though hundreds of miles intervened, or flash through the air for thousands of miles the notes of warning or the notice of coming relief;

centuries before these mighty wonders had become accomplished facts, the commonalities and really the necessities of our everyday life, the beautiful spot known as Plain township and Leesburg was the home of a mighty and noble race of men whose origin and antecedents are an impenetrable secret; a brave, strong, stalwart race. Here he was lord of the manor and roamed as free as a bird over its hills and vales, here he pitched his patriarchal tent and harvested his crop of maize. Through the magnificent forests, now fast disappearing before the greed or need of the advancing host of civilization, he engaged in the soul-stirring chase of the majestic buck and roe which sought shelter amid its leafy fastness.

Beneath the shade of these grand parks of oak (known to the early settlers as oak barrens through which it is said the fleeing deer could be seen for half a mile, so clean were they kept) the gallant brave wooed and won the dusky maiden of his choice and sang to her of love in a wig-

Early History of Plain Township

5

wam home as he gently rowed his bark canoe o'er the limpid waters of our beautiful lakes lighted by the love-inspiring rays of the harvest moon.

Under these same skies he held his majestic councils, where he planned aggressive war upon his enemies or arranged to repel the invading foe. Here he chanted his death song and passed away as only a brave could pass away and joined his ancestors to roam with ecstatic delight the Elysian fields and happy hunting grounds of the Indian's heaven, happily ignorant of the pale-faced stranger before whose onward march the last vestige of his descendants were destined to vanish as the early dew before the rays of the advancing God of Day. Home, country and the sepulchers of his fathers were to be surrendered to the oncoming hosts of civilization, and today the ground on which we build our homes and enjoy all the pleasures of peace and plenty rings hollow with the graves of this once mighty people whose teeming millions at one time inhabited every nook and corner of this broad, beautiful land.

One hundred and eighty years

or more had elapsed after the discovery of America before the first pale-face looked upon these grand prairies or his foot had trod the soil of what now constitutes Plain township and the present site of the pretty town of Leesburg. In the year 1670 two Frenchmen, Claude Ollonez and Claude Doblin, sent out on an exploring expedition by the French of Canada, passed through what is now known as northern Indiana and southern Michigan, and judging from their vivid description of the grand savannahs and the delightful wooded parks of the country through which they passed, we think without a doubt they gazed with wonder and amazement upon our broad prairies and wooded parks which at that time were real parks, beautiful to behold. We can imagine with what pleasure these weary, wayworn explorers lay to rest on the greensward beneath the cool shade of those ancient oaks while they gazed upon the tall, waving grass of the broad savannahs spread out before them, typical of the fields of golden grain which were to follow in the train of oncoming civilization of which these men were the van-

Early History of Plain Township

6

guard. No wonder that their glowing description of this wonderful land was received with doubt and incredulity.

It is said that the Indians kept these parks or oak barrens clean by burning the leaves and undergrowth in the fall of the year, leaving only the low, broadtopped barren oak. In the spring the grass covered the ground making really a pretty, open park and an ideal hunting ground. A few of these grand old oaks may yet be seen lifting their veteran heads among the oak grubs of today. Others probably passed through these parts to and fro, but many years passed before any white men located for any time in this section of the country.

The first white men of whom we have any knowledge, who located in this section, were two young Frenchmen, Dominique Rousseau and Henry Ossem. They came here in 1820. They were Indian traders. Rousseau located in an Indian village situated, I think, on the northeast part of the farm now owned by Emanuel Dubbs. He subsequently married Miss Aggie Erwin, daughter of Chas. Erwin, and moved to Leesburg. Rousseau died in his home

situated on the lot now occupied by the M. E. church, December 5, 1845, at the age of 46. Henry Ossem made his headquarters at the Indian village located on the present site of Oswego and, we believe, remained with the Indians, going with them when the government moved them west. These were really the first business men of Plain township. John Blaine opened the first regular general store in the township on the southwest corner of the farm now owned by the Harrison boys, on the corner north of Bone Prairie schoolhouse, in 1833 or '34. When Leesburg was laid out in 1835 he moved his store to the village.

Among the first settlers of Plain township of which we have positive knowledge are Elijah Harlin, Samuel Stookey, John Shelly, Harrison Pool, Charles Erwin, John B. Chapman, John Collier, Isaac Kirkendall, Stacy B. Catey, Samuel Thomas, W. B. Wade, John R. Rumbley, John R. Blaine, Samuel Stephenson, David Roudabush, Charles Erwin and Jacob Kirkendall. These men with their families founded a flourishing settlement in Plain township of which Leesburg became the nucleus.

The Indians of Plain Township

7

INDIANS OF PLAIN TOWNSHIP

Probably it would not be out of place before we take up the history of the early white settlers of the township and town to finish the history of the race formerly in possession of the land, up to the time of their final removal.

The early settlers of the township found when they came quite a number of the original owners of the soil still in possession, although they had sold the majority of their lands to the general government and were living on small tracts reserved by them. These in many cases were unwilling witnesses of the paleface's inroads upon their hunting grounds, but no disposition to be unfriendly was shown.

The settlers soon began to plant and raise their crops and, although the red man had to divide with him the game of the forests, they on the other hand were benefitted by the produce of the farm and merchandise introduced by the settlers and soon became quite well satisfied with the new order of things, and, until their removal west of the Mississippi by the government, lived peacefully in their villages trading and trafficking with their white neighbors.

The Indians who were then the inhabitants of Plain township and its immediate vicinity were the fragments of two great tribes that at one time possessed Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois; namely, the Pottawatomies and Miamias. The Pottawatomies were lead by two chiefs, Mo-no-quet and Mus-squaw-buck.

There were two other tribes of Pottawatomies whose chiefs were Che-cose and Mo-ta. The Che-cose village was situated on the river just below the present site of the city of Warsaw. The Motas' village was farther down toward Atwood. The Mo-no-quet village was located in Plain township on the bluff just north of Tippecanoe river and just west of the Leesburg road where it crosses the river bridge. The village consisted of quite a number of bark-covered wigwams and had a population of from 150 to 300 inhabitants. These were Pottawatomies and were governed by Chief Monoquet, after whom the village was named. Monoquet was a prominent chief among the Pottawatomies, both, we might say, as a political leader and as a warrior. He fought under Te-cum-seh at the battle of

The Indians of Plain Township

8

Tippecanoe, where he gained quite a reputation as an Indian brave. In personal appearance was a thin, spare man, about 60 years old at that time (1835), stood five feet seven inches in his moccasins. His forehead was high and rather square, his eyes small and bright, his nose (something uncommon for an Indian) was aquiline, his voice tenor, clear and sharp. He died of lung fever and debauch.

An incident occurred at the time of Monoquet's death that would strike us as barbarous in the extreme, even for an Indian. There was a handsome young squaw on a visit at the village from some tribe in Michigan and for some cause, most likely on account of his sudden death, the tribe suspicioned her of having poisoned him. The rumor reaching her ears, she became alarmed and started on foot and alone for her home in Michigan. This movement on the part of the squaw confirmed their suspicions and two young braves were sent out in pursuit of her. One of them overtaking her at the crossroads south of Leesburg, brained her with his tomahawk. Mr. (I think Joseph) Harper and Harri-

son Pool, two early settlers, who were coming down the road from the north and saw them when they overtook her and ruthlessly struck her down with a tomahawk, rushed up to them and as they came up one Indian flourished his tomahawk and exclaimed, "Waugh! big Indian me." Mr. Harper replied: "Yes, big Indian you, to run down and brain a defenseless squaw." Then raising his gun he said: "For a fip I'd put a bullet thru your cowardly heart." The Indians sneaked off to join those who most likely could better appreciate this act of valor. This incident was related to us by Mr. Thomas Harper, who died in Leesburg in 1870, as he heard it from his father or uncle, we are not sure which.

After the performance of the usual Indian ceremonies over the dead chief his remains were taken half a mile south of the village and about forty rods southwest of the residence of Mr. John Hall, where they built a pen of poles six feet long, four feet wide and four feet high. In one end of the pen they placed the dead chief in a sitting position, face toward the south with his blanket

The Indians of Plain Township

9

thrown across his shoulders. Two poles were used to hold the body in position. One of them was placed under his chin to hold his head in place and one lower down to keep his hands and body in the desired position, the ends of the poles being fastened between the poles of the pen on either side. For some time succotash and other edibles were brought for the dead chief to subsist on as he traveled to the happy hunting grounds.

But soon the dead chief was forgotten and his last resting place neglected, but for months afterward the ghastly form could be seen as it grinned at the person who might venture into its hideous presence, a forcible reminder of the instability of all things earthly and the end to which all are surely approaching, be he red, white or black. After the funeral rites were over, his son, a young man of fine physical appearance, Jim Monoquet, was hailed as their chief amid great rejoicing, the ceremonies lasting seven days.

Like the ocean's ebb and flow,
Earth's millions come and go,
Leaving on the page of time,
The History of their worth or crime.

INDIAN BURYING GROUND.

The dead of the past, how soon forgot;
Their existance a mythical dream,
They played their part, and are not;
They're buried in Oblivion's stream.

On the south side of the river opposite the Indian village of Monoquet, there was quite a large space of ground which had been used as a burial place. The graves and many other traces of the Indians were plain to be seen at the time we came to Monoquet, in 1843. Even when a boy of eight or nine we were deeply interested in anything which pertained in any way to the antecedent history of a race who were of prehistoric origin. We spent many, many happy hours hunting for such mementoes of them as flint arrow heads, stone axes, etc., which at that time were quite plentiful.

The adult Indian and squaw were usually buried in the earth, but the squaws, when their little ones died, wove willow cradle-like baskets, placed the little ones in them and fastened them among the upper branches of a tree.

Rather than consign them to the tomb,
Its darkness and its gloom,
They swung their loved ones high in air
'Mid rustling leaves and sunshine fair,
Left to the Great Spirit's loving care.

The Indians of Plain Township

10

The earliest pioneers said they had seen some of those burial baskets hanging in the trees in the village of Monoquet. The birds of prey soon carried the little forms away, so it was not as unsanitary as it would at first appear. Something like this mode of burial was practiced by some of the ancients. After the funeral rites were over the body was given to men whose business it was. They stripped it of its clothing and cast it into a pit or walled enclosure and left it for the vultures to dispose of, which they did very quickly.

Speaking of the Indian burying ground at Monoquet brings in mind (please excuse a personal reminiscence) an incident connected with it, the circumstances and details of which are as vivid to our mind today as when they occurred, some sixty-nine or seventy years ago, of which we and our brother were the principals. Our father, Dr. James Armstrong, then a young man not far from thirty, and just out of college, had come west to grow up with the country. We had often heard him in conversation with a Dr. Harper, who then lived on the place now owned by

Mr. Funk, relate some of his experiences in college and explain the many new methods in the practice of medicine and the new appliances for the study of the human system, among which he often spoke of a complete human skeleton and said he would have one as soon as he was able.

We came to the conclusion that it would be a capital idea to furnish father with the desired skeleton, and as we understood that the Indian graves across the river were very shallow we at once determined at the first opportunity when he was away from home we would open an Indian grave and secure the bones of one of the departed braves, believing that father would appreciate the present. Accordingly, one pleasant morning with spades on our shoulders we started for the scene of action. We soon found a grave that we thought would answer the purpose and commenced operations, which were not very rapid as we were but lads of seven and nine years old. But we toiled on, inspired by the prospect of witnessing the pleasure it would afford father. The noon hour came but we had not reached the object of our ambition.

The Indians of Plain Township

11

In fact we began to entertain grave doubts as to whether the Indian had not melted away entirely, bones and all. Along in the afternoon we came to what we thought was a fine subject. We picked out the bones very carefully. The small ones we placed in a basket. Being the stronger of the two we took the larger bones in one arm and with the fingers of our right hand in the eye sockets of the skull, lead the van on the homeward march as proud as though we were loaded with the gold of Ophir; so sure were we of father's pleasure. But, alas for our visions of pleasure and approval, they were destined to be blasted. We were soon standing chagrined and disconcerted in the presence of him from whom we expected approval and commendation.

When we arrived at home, as it happened, father came out of the house just as we came into the dooryard and we shall never forget the look of utter astonishment that came over his countenance when he saw us. We saw that in some way we had made a serious mistake and stood still, loaded down with our remnants of Indian mortality,

awaiting further developments. On coming up to us he said: "Boys, what under the sun have you been doing and where did you get those?" pointing to the bones. We told him we had often heard him express a desire to possess a skeleton and we had procured one for him, hoping he would be pleased with it. He burst into a hearty laugh and said: "Well boys, I guess you meant it all right, but these decayed bones are of no earthly use as a skeleton; besides it is very wrong for you to disturb the dead, although it was an Indian. You must put those bones back where you got them." He went with us and within an hour the Indian was resting in his narrow home as quietly as though he had never been disturbed by the indiscreet ambition of two little pale faces to please their father.

* * *

THE MUSQUAWBUCKS.

Musquawbuck was a chief of noble mien,

High, broad forehead, eyes bright and keen;

A stalwart leader, true and brave,

Too noble to be a menial or a slave.

As has been stated, the Indians sold a large portion of their lands to the government, retaining but small reservations as homes for

The Indians of Plain Township

12

their tribes, which at that time had become comparatively small. Monoquet had reserved his village and four sections laying south to the present site of Warsaw. Musquawbuck had five sections including his village, the present site of Oswego, and all of Bone Prairie.

The old chief, Musquawbuck, it is said, was of the most imposing appearance of all the Indians of this sections of the country; one of the finest specimens of physical manhood. Some thought his high, broad forehead bore striking resemblance to that of Daniel Webster. Large, erect, squarely built and in every respect well proportioned, his presence impressed the beholder with a sense of the innate greatness of the man. Nature had evidently calculated him for a leader and had implanted in him all of the elements of greatness. Opportunity and cultivation alone were lacking to make him the peer of his white brother, whose wisdom and intellectual powers rule and direct the destiny of nations.

The Musquawbucks were not as dark a copper color as is generally seen among the Indians,

but were considerably lighter, more the color of a light mulatto. Musquawbuck was sixty-five when he died, his death occurring about the same time as that of the chief Monoquet. He was buried by his tribesmen with all the honors due to a chief of high rank. He had several sons who resembled him in color and general appearance. None of them, however, were his equal in intelligence or as a leader. They were Ma-cose, Mazette, John and Bill, who was known to the early settlers as Bill Squawbuck. He was the youngest and the pet of the Indian family.

In the early thirties and for some time afterward, every trading post was well supplied with fire-water. In fact every store great or small was a general store carrying an assortment of goods, including whiskey, the use of which, then as now, had a tendency to make a fool or a demon of a civilized white man, let alone a heathen Indian.

The Indians of the neighboring villages when they came to Leesburg to trade, often filled up on the white mans fire-water and we are told by old settlers that they were awakened many times in

The Indians of Plain Township

13

the night by drunken Indians as they passed their cabins on their way to their village homes by their whooping, yelling and firing of guns. John Squawbuck was particularly fond of the stuff and when under its influence was quite quarrelsome. He was often found with this kind of company and one night while returning to their village he became engaged in a quarrel with some of his companions and was killed on the road near the foot of what was then known as Harper's hill, east of the grist mill. Next day the whites buried him and today his bones rest beneath the northeast corner of the tool house in Leesburg cemetery. Of the hundreds of Indian graves in Plain township, that of John Squawbuck is probably the only one whose location is positively known.

Bill Squawbuck was about twenty-five or thirty years old at the time of the white settlement in the township. He spoke English quite well, was a great friend of the white men and always enjoyed their company. Many interesting incidents of his association with them might be related had we the time and

space. When the final arrangements (under the direction of Mr. French, one of the early settlers) were made for the removal of the Monoquet and Musquawbuck tribes, it was with the utmost reluctance that Bill Squawbuck consented to bid his white friends farewell and look for the last time upon the old familiar scenes of his childhood; the beautiful prairie with its waving grass, its bounding deer, its cooing doves; the enchanting lake close by, whose placid waters abounded with myriads of the finny tribe, which from his earliest boyhood had afforded him many happy hours of sport as well as sustenance; the pleasant village along whose northern border flowed the limpid waters of the beautiful Tippecanoe; the home of his earliest recollection with which were associated all the incidents of his life, its joys, its pleasures and its sorrows, to take up his march toward the setting sun at the command of the pale-faced stranger who had gradually crowded his race inch by inch, from the coast of Maine to the western borders of the Mississippi. If we give the Indian credit for the same strong

The Indians of Plain Township

14

feeling of love for home and native land, the same devotion to the practices and customs of his fathers, which we have implanted in our own breasts, it is hardly to be wondered at that as a general thing they were filled with an undying animosity toward the white invader, and resisted even after resistance was a forlorn hope, the encroachment upon their birthright.

Many who witnessed the final leave-taking of the Indians as they turned their backs upon their ancestral homes said it was a truly pathetic scene, long to be remembered by those who saw it.

A poor, heart-broken, dejected band,
Driven ruthlessly from home and land,
They know not, care not where they go;
Their hearts so full of grief and woe.

After Bill's arrival in his new home, he became chief of his tribe, and, it is said, displayed a great deal of his father's genius and ability to govern. Parties who subsequently met him in his western home say he spoke feelingly of his old home and friends back yonder. His heart still yearned for the beautiful prairie, crystal lake and delightful hunting grounds of his father's, and who could blame him?

BONE PRAIRIE A BATTLEFIELD

They fought like warriors, long and well;
The field soon filled with foemen slain;
But as they charged their chieftan fell,
His life's blood flowed from every vein.
Yet when his warriors his smile of triumph saw,

There rang out strong and clear a loud hurrah.

They charged again, and the fight is won,
But the brave chieftan's race was run,
And gently in death his eyelids close
As calmly as an infant seeks repose.

The prairie owned by Musquawbuck, known now as Bone Prairie, was so called by the white settlers from the fact that when the first settlers came they found it almost literally covered with human bones, and for many years afterward bones were to be seen and were plowed up as the settler broke the virgin soil. The presence of such a vast amount of bones, which was a mystery to the white settlers, may be accounted for by the occurrence of one or maybe two incidents, which, according to an old Indian legend, is said to have transpired upon its plains in years long gone by. The first, as related to early settlers by a Miami squaw, supposed at that time to be one hundred years old, known to the whites as Granny Benack, was in substance as follows:

The Indians of Plain Township

15

Long years ago, when the Miamis and Pottawatomies were a mighty people and possessed a portion of the Mississippi valley and to the northern lakes, a young man of the Pottawatomies went on a visit to some village of the Miamis and while there, accidentally or otherwise, killed a prominent Miami. He made his escape and returned to his home in the vicinity of what is known as Bone Prairie. The Miamis sent delegates to the Pottawatomies demanding the surrender of the man who did the killing that they might punish him according to their laws. The Pottawatomies after taking the matter into consideration in their councils, decided not to comply with the demand. Upon receipt of the report of the delegates, word was sent out to the different tribes of Miamis to attend a grand council, the result of which was a declaration of war against the Pottawatomies, and preparations made to attack the offending tribe. The Pottawatomies were not idle while these offensive preparations were being made by the Miamis. Runners were sent out to all the tribes or gens and their hosts of warriors assembled

to oppose the onslaught of the advancing forces of the Miamis. The hostile tribes met on what is known as Bone Prairie and immediately a fierce hand-to-hand battle was on in which no quarters were asked or received.

All day long amid shouts and whooping of contending hosts the terrific contest lasted. The glint of the tomahawk as it flashed back the rays of the morning sun, the twang of the bow, the whir of the deadly arrow as it sped on its errand of death, was seen and heard on every hand. As the terrific conflict raged, the hordes of savage assailants were hurled against each other again and again as they were driven across that beautiful plain, covering its fair bosom at each assault and repulse with a mass of mangled and dying humanity. Like hideous demons of the nether world could be seen the chiefs in their war paint as they darted to and fro encouraging by word and deed their tribes or gens to a more stubborn resistance, or to hold the advantage already gained.

Thus with varied success the conflict raged until the sun began to cast its slanting rays

The Indians of Plain Township

16

across the eastern prairie. Just when the conflict seemed to hang in the balance, the big chief of the Pottawatomies was stricken down. For a moment they were almost panic stricken, but when above the din they heard the stentorian voice of their chief urging them on, they took fresh courage and with loud huzzas, rushed upon the foe with renewed vigor and drove them from the field.

Thus Bone Prairie's fight was lost
and won

Just before the setting of the sun.

It is said that the dead of both parties were left to moulder away where they fell.

The other incident, although not so romantic in its nature, might have furnished the bones all the same. It is said that when the Musquawbuck tribe was quite large numerically small-pox broke out among the tribe and, not knowing of its contagious nature, it soon became an epidemic, and the Indians, frenzied by the intense fever which accompanied the malady, would plunge into the river and lake. The result was the poor creatures died like flies and the terrified survivors fled in horror, leaving the dead to waste

away unsepulchered and unsung.

These legends may or may not be true, but the fact remains that the plain was thickly strewn with bones when the white settlers first saw it. Not only here but from the frozen regions of the north to the Everglades of Florida are to be found relics of the once mighty nations which at some time filled this beautiful land with their millions of prosperous and happy people, but whose degraded and barbarized descendants, the Indians, have been driven out by a more enlightened and civilized race.

"Nations melt from power's high pinnacle when they have felt the sunshine for awhile and downward go.

Thus it has been with this people whose council fires have blazed all along the beautiful valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi in ages far remote from us, but today are reduced to a few thousands hovering upon the extreme verge of annihilation.

The Indians of Plain Township

17

MIAMI CHIEFS AND LEGEND OF THE MARSH.

The Miamis were not nearly so numerous in this section of the country as the Pottawatomies and but few had their homes within the present bounds of Plain township.

The Miami chiefs, known to the early settlers, were Flatbelly and Wa-wa-see, known generally as Wabee and Bennack. The larger portion of the Miamis were located in Wabash county, but were scattered all along the northeastern part of Indiana and as far west as the Turkeycreek prairie of this county.

Flatbelly's village was to the northeast of Leesburg, near the east line of Kosciusko in Noble county. He had a reservation of thirty-six sections, a part of which was in Kosciusko county, taking in sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, and 36, of Turkeycreek township, and 1, 2, and 3 of Tippecanoe township.

We understand that at one time Flatbelly's people had a village on the beautiful body of water formerly known as Nine-Mile lake but laterly christened (by the promoters of summer resorts

located on its shores) Wawasee in honor of the Miami chief of that name. Not far from the location of the village it is said there used to be a sandbar that ran across to the northern shore called the Indian trail over which the water was so shallow that the Indians could wade across. But the building of the dam at Syracuse raised the water so that no one would imagine that there was ever a bar at that point.

Flatbelly was a large, powerful Indian of a darker copper color and inclined to be quite corpulent. He was one of the most prominent chiefs in the Miami nation and wielded an undisputed influence in all their councils. The Government, in consideration of Flatbelly's power and influence with his people, presented him with thirty-six sections of land, a comfortable house in his village and many other minor acts of kindness. His tribe, that at one time had been numerous and powerful, were dwindled down until at the time of their removal to the west it numbered but seventy-five warriors all told, and the old chief had beheld the wanning of more than seven hundred and twenty moons.

The Indians of Plain Township

18

Wa-wa-see, or Wabee as he was commonly called, was a minor chief and was supposed by the whites to be a brother to Flat-belly, and was a large powerful Indian. He was in the habit of appearing on special occasions with a large silver ring hanging from the cartilage of his nose. He at times substituted a fish bone for the ring. His village was situated at the southeast of what was known as Wawasee or Wabee's lake, about five miles northeast of Leesburg. (This was the original Wawasee lake, called Wabee's lake.)

The next Miami chief, and one who resided within the limits of Plain township, was Benack. Benack was a sharp, shrewd Indian, could drive a good bargain as well as some of his white brethren. He was a chief of considerable influence in his nation. In the important treaty with the government in 1832 he was one of the principal contractors.

The Benacks lived in a log house about forty rods west of the brick house on the T. G. Berst farm, now occupied by Arthur Stookey. Benack had a record as an Indian warrior, pos-

sessed of an undying enmity for the whites and the story had become current at least with the juniors that he had the tongues of ninety-nine whites and that he had vowed to have an even hundred. As a lad we were sometimes sent on errands to the home of Conrad Berst, Colyer and other settlers on the prairie. Following the old Indian trail from Monoquet, winding through the woods, past the huckleberry marsh and past the Benack cabins, which we did very quietly continually fearing that from behind some log or stump the ex-Indian warrior would seize us and with a blood-curdling war whoop wrench our tongue out by the roots, but happily no such disaster ever befell us and we are yet in possession of that unruly member. In the early fifties Benack died and his daughter, Mary Ann Benack, came into possession of three or four sections on the south side of the big prairie. When quite young she was married to a trapper named McCarter. But they could not agree and she gave him a section of land to leave her which he did. She afterward married an Indian who had been raised by her fath-

The Indians of Plain Township

19

er, known here by the name of Pe-ash-wa; a fine, manly-appearing fellow, as some who are now living in Leesburg can testify.

The Benack lands were finally sold to T. G. Berst and others and the Peashwas moved to a reservation they had near South Bend, and the last Indian bid farewell to Plain township, leaving their whites rivals in full and undisputed possession of the land.

According to an old Indian legend, the large tract of land north of the burg that used to be known as the big marsh was a lake, dotted over with beautiful islands covered with groves of the barren oak, the waters of which was filled with rare specimens of the finny tribe.

The wooded spots of upland seen here and there on the surface of the marsh, the formation of its banks, the gravel bottom found below the muck, the many pools of water which were there years ago in which fish were quite plenty, all go to substantiate the legend.

We have often thought of the old legend as we stood on the bank on a moonlight night when a fog had risen from the surface of the marsh giving it the appearance of a lake with its islands here and there and its wooded shores standing out in bold relief and could hardly conceive a

more beautiful scene. We could almost imagine we could see the Indian in his light canoe as he struck out from the western shore or darted out from some shady nook in the picturesque islands onto the moonlit bosom of the lake. But the scene changes; the waters are dried up by the gradual growth of vegetable matter, the boggy matter thus formed in time grows firmer and the beautiful lake is transformed into broad fields of waving golden grain dotted here and there with a cozy farm-house and instead of the splashing of the Indian's oar as he glided over the crystal surface, we hear as the evening approaches coming across the grain-laden fields, the pleasant neigh of the horse, the lowing of cattle, the merry whistle or song of the plowboy as he hies him home after his day of toil as the supper bell's welcome call sounds on the air. And we are filled with wonder at the wisdom and goodness of the Supreme Being who so nicely adjusts all things for the happiness and comfort of his creatures.

In the past few years the lower portions of the marsh which were yet too wet for cultivation have, by ditching and draining, been made available for the raising of onions, and thousands of bushels are raised every year until the onion crop has become one of the most valuable products of these low lands.

The Pioneers of Plain Township

20

PIONEERS OF PLAIN TWP.

In 1795, by act of Congress, all of what is now the grand old Hoosier state was given to the Pinkesaws, Kickapoos, Delawares, Miamis, Wyandottes and other Indian tribes as a reserve with the exception of five six-mile tracts located mostly in the middle and southern parts of the state. In 1799, by Act of Congress, this land was organized into a territory known as the Indiana territory. In 1800 the President ratified the Act of Congress and in 1805 the first territorial legislature was organized and William Henry Harrison was appointed Governor. He was invested with authority by the U. S. Government to make treaties with the Indian tribes to extinguish their claims, which he did, and by 1812 all or nearly all had been relinquished south of Wabash county.

Prior to the organization of the Indiana territory, this part of the county was attached to Michigan. In 1816 the Indiana territory was admitted as a state and christened "Indiana" in honor of the Indians who at one time by an act of the Government were its sole owners. In 1825 the Indian claims in Elkhart county were extinguished, ten years before their claims were ceded in Plain township.

Plain township and in fact the

whole of Kosciusko county with its stately forests, its flowery barrens, waving prairies, its crystal lakes and beautiful streams was an ideal home for the Indian and they were loath to leave it, but at last at a treaty held near the present town of Rochester, they, in 1832, resigned their claim to their last foot of land in the county. This treaty was ratified in 1833. The county boundaries were established in 1835. At the organization of the county it was divided into three townships, Turkeycreek, Plain and Wayne.

While the treaty of 1832 was pending, many in Elkhart county, Wabash county and other of the earlier settlements were waiting anxiously for the time to come when the newly acquired lands should be put on the market, some of whom had been on prospecting tours through Plain township (Prairie township at that time was a part of Plain) and were anxious to take up claims and the consequence was a perfect rush from these older settlements.

The prairies of Plain township were a prize in the eyes of the first settlers from the fact that they were all ready for the breaking plow. The first crop of corn was planted by dropping the seed in the furrow behind the plow and this was covered by the upturned sod of the next round of

The Pioneers of Plain Township

21

the plow. No further attention was given it until fall when a bountiful crop was gathered, so rich was the virgin soil of the prairies.

A gentleman who came to Plain township from York state, in writing to his friends at home about the productiveness of our prairies, said the stalks from the first planting of corn grew to from eight to ten feet high, bearing ears from twelve to fifteen inches long and proportionately large in circumference, and if it were not for the clouds of mosquitos which came in swarms from the low grounds, filling the air at night, making sleep almost an impossibility, it would be a veritable paradise. These natural advantages made claims in Plain township a thing especially to be desired. But notwithstanding this the pioneers of Plain township had many almost insurmountable difficulties to contend with and overcome before they accomplished the transformation of a wild Indian home into the bright, beautiful paradise of today, filled with thousands of happy, prosperous homes and a civilized, God-fearing people.

The first log cabins had but one small room which had to answer the purpose of kitchen, bed room, dining room, sitting room and parlor. Later on larger and more commodious ones were built.

Among those pioneers of Plain

township who faced these and many other hardships and inconveniences, who preempted land in this township in 1835 and 1836, we find John Rumley and Isaac Moore, who preempted the north half of section four, May 23, 1835; J. B. Chapman preempted the east half of the southwest quarter of section 4, May 23, 1835; Elijah and Jacob Harlan preempted the northeast quarter of section five, May 21, 1835; George Harlan and Josiah Shoemaker preempted the southeast quarter of section five, July 9, 1835; John and Henry Lee preempted the southeast quarter of section eight May 21, 1835; Levi Lee preempted the southeast quarter of section eight June 8, 1835; James Mason preempted the south half of the north quarter of section eight June 8, 1835; John Colyer preempted the south half of the southwest quarter of section eight June 8, 1835; Jas. Mason preempted the north half of the northwest quarter of section eight September 24, 1835; Thomas Harper preempted the west half of the northwest quarter of section nine May 23, 1835; William Shelly preempted the northeast quarter of section nine August 27, 1835; Thomas Harlan, Junior, preempted the east half of the northwest quarter of section nine September 31, 1835; Aaron Harlan preempted the west half of the south quarter of section nine September 21, 1835.

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

22

William N. Switzer preempted the east half of the southeast quarter section 9 Dec. 12, 1835; Samuel Snodgrass preempted the northwest quarter of southeast quarter section 9. Dec. 12, 1835; John R. Blaine preempted the southwest quarter of southeast quarter section 21 May 21, 1842; Joseph Rippey lots 1 and 2 and northwest quarter section 10 May 24, 1835, Abraham Buckley northeast quarter section 10 May 24, 1835; William B. Wade preempted F. R. A. C. southwest quarter section 10 in 1839; John Thompson southeast quarter section 10 June 16, 1840; Andrew Garvin preempted southeast quarter section 18 May 29, 1835; Aaron Powell preempted east quarter of southwest quarter section 6 June 1, 1835; Samuel Stickney preempted southwest half of southwest quarter section 6 July 7, 1865; Samuel Stookey preempted northwest quarter of southwest quarter section 6 Sept. 26, 1835; John Adney preempted west half of northeast quarter section 6 Dec. 12, 1835; James Hill east half of northeast quarter section 6 Dec. 15, 1835; Elisha Carr east half of southwest quarter section 6 Dec. 15, 1835;

John Ervin lots 1 and 2 section 21 Dec. 12, 1835; Henry Lee F. R. A. C. southwest quarter section 21

James Hill east half of northeast quarter section 21 Dec. 12, 1835; John Reese southeast quarter section 20 June 9, 1842; Benjamin Bennett west half northeast quarter section 22 Sept. 24, 1835; William B. Chapman east half of northeast quarter section 22 Sept. 24, 1835; William Ervin east half of southeast quarter section 22 Sept. 24, 1835; John Ervin southwest quarter section 25 Dec. 12, 1835; James Hill west half of northwest quarter Dec. 15, 1835; William Chapman north half of northwest quarter section 22 Sept. 24, 1835; Thomas Kirkpatrick southwest quarter section 23 Sept. 24, 1835; William W. Coan west half of southeast quarter section 23 Dec. 12, 1835; Hiram Elliott north fraction of southwest quarter section 32 July 25, 1835; Samuel Snodgrass lot No. 1 section 10 Sept. 24, 1835; William Switzer lot No. 2 section 10 Dec. 12, 1835.

The following claims were entered later on, from 1838 to 1842: Benjamin Perry preempted lots Nos. 5 and 6 section 18 Dec. 29,

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

23

1839; John Shelly south half of southwest quarter June 20, 1840; John Reese southeast quarter section 20 1842; John Vaughn west half of northeast quarter section 20 June 15, 1842; Henry Lee F. R. A. C. southwest quarter June 20, 1842; Jacob Rosbrugh southwest quarter section 30 June 30, 1842; Nehemiah Grubbs northeast quarter section 30 Nov. 17, 1841; P. Grubb southeast quarter section 30 June 16, 1842; David Ayers northwest quarter section 30 June 21, 1842; Abraham Counts northwest quarter section 29 Sept. 9, 1839; Jas. Robinson southeast quarter section 29 Feb. 4, 1839; James Patty southwest quarter section section 29 March 5, 1840; William Carty northeast quarter section 29 1840; A. P. Kuntz east half of southwest quarter section 29 June 11, 1848; Jacob Kimes lot No. 5 northwest quarter section 31 July 14, 1841; Nancy Kimes north fraction southeast quarter section 31 June 18, 1842.

At the organization of the county all of what is now Prairie township was included in Plain. The Summys, Bishops, Guys, Powells, Halls, Thomases and Hughes were really among the

earliest settlers of Plain township. In fact, we believe some of them came to the big prairie as early as 1832 and '33, two years before the land sales. Mr. Eli Summy told us that when they came onto the big prairie they passed over the present site of Leesburg before there was any sign of a house on it. In fact, it was one dense plum thick-et in which some of as fine-flavored plums as he ever ate grew.

In February, 1832, three years before the town of Leesburg was laid out, Elijah Harlan and John Rumly came to Little Turkeycreek and built two log cabins. The Harlan cabin was built on the west side and south end of Little Turkeycreek prairie just north of the John Catey place now owned by the Bartholomews. The Rumly cabin was built on the J. W. Long farm now owned by John Ruple, but on account of the Indians, who were at that time quite troublesome Mr. Rumley concluded to return to Elkhart county and waited until the treaty, then being made with the Indians for their land in this county, should be completed and the land put on the market. About this time Messrs. Isaac

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

24

and Thomas Moore, former acquaintances of the Rumleys and Harlans, arrived with their families from Wayne county and moved into the cabin erected by Mr. Rumley. He persuaded Mr. Harlan to remain in his cabin which he concluded to do and accordingly moved in on the 6th of March, 1833.

During the same year they were joined by Samuel Stookey, William Shelly, Charles Erwin, J. B. Chapman, John Colyer, Sr. Jacob and Isaac Kirkendall. In 1834 Samuel Stephenson, John R. Blaine. In 1835 the following additions were made to the settlement: David Rippey, A. M. Blaine, Metcalf Beck, W. W. Eskew, P. L. Runyan, W. C.

Groves, John Weimer, W. B. Wade and Jacob Rosbrugh (he settled a mile or so southwest of Monoquet.)

After the treaty with Indians was completed and the land was for sale, the settlement grew very rapidly and but a short time elapsed until all the land was taken and on almost every section could be seen the smoke as it curled up toward heaven from the cabins of the white settlers, which had in so short a time taken the place of the Indian wigwam. Some of these later settlers we may have occasion to speak of later on. A short biography of these first settlers will undoubtedly be of interest to all.



The Pioneers of Plain Township.

25

LOOKING BACK

We are satisfied that in looking back over the lives of those gone before there comes to us an almost divine inspiration to emulate the determined zeal to overcome the evil exhibited by the Christian warrior, the self-sacrificing devotion of the citizen, the undaunted courage and patriotism of the soldier and the manly endurance of the pioneers. It surely ought to be a source of inspiration and pride to us to look back and recall the many manly acts, the toil and privation endured by the noble, stalwart men and women of our own county and township, the men who broke up our prairies and cut down our forests, making them bloom like the rose, thus leaving to us, the citizens of Kosciusko county and Plain township, the

priceless heritage which we now enjoy.

There is an inspiration in looking back,
O'er the days and years and men of the past.
We see where we've gained and oft where we lack
And thus we've a lesson that will last.

Yes, there's an inspiration in looking back,
O'er the lives of the brave and good gone before
It gives us fresh courage, which sometimes we lack,

In fighting our battles which often are sore.
These men were not perfect, oh, no;

Their good we emulate, their failures ignore,
They were brave men, that we all know;
So we all give them praises galore.

Yes, we're inspired by oft looking back,
To build well for the future, as did they of the past.

Then when those who follow come to look back
They can say they did a good work that surely will last.

In looking back over the events pertaining to the early settlement of Plain township and vicinity, we are pleased to take up and present as best we can short biographical sketches of some at least of the early settlers in this vicinity.

THE HARLAN FAMILY

The Harlans, who preempted lands in Plain township in 1835, were Elijah Harlan, George Harlan, Thomas Harlan, Jacob Harlan and Aaron Harlan. The original Harlans were of pure English stock, coming from England nearly two hundred years ago, landing at Philadelphia during

the government of William Penn, the founder of the Keystone State. They were Quakers and on account of the persecution of that sect in the old country, five of the Harlan brothers came with William Penn, the promoter of the Quaker colony in Pennsylvania, to whom they were dis-

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

26

tantly related, in 1718, but unfortunately three of the brothers died at sea. Two of them arrived at the colony, but only a short time elapsed before one of the two sickened and died. The remaining brother subsequently married and to him was born five sons, thus duplicating the five brothers who started to join their co-religionists in America. To these five sons all the Harlans scattered all over the United States trace their ancestry.

Owing to the different localities in which the different families of Harlans located, the spelling of the name has been somewhat changed, some spelling it Harlin, others Harland. The name originally was spelled Harlan, but from recent investigation it is found that all trace their ancestry back to the Harlan brothers who came to the Quaker colony with William Penn in 1718.

There are in the United States several thousand who bear the name of Harlan besides a host who by blood are relatives of the Quaker Harlans of old Philadelphia.

Elijah Harlan was the first white man who built a cabin in

Plain township with a view of settling here and making it his home. He was born in Marion county, Ohio, on April 13, 1806.

His father was a soldier in the war of 1812 and died in the service, leaving his wife with nine small children to support, of which Elijah was next to the youngest. While yet a mere lad he was the main dependence upon which his mother could rely for support. Realizing in its fullest sense the weight of his obligations and actuated by a manly desire to faithfully fulfill them, he redoubled his exertions determining to make his mother comfortable and happy. A kind Providence smiled upon his efforts and when he was but eighteen years of age he was enabled to purchase a small tract of land in Henry county, Ind., onto which he moved his mother and commenced to improve it. On June 21, 1827, when a little past his majority Elijah was married to Miss Elizabeth Rumbly.

In 1832 Mr. Harlan moved from Henry Co. to a small settlement near the present site of the city of Goshen. At this time there was not a white settlement in what is now known as Kosciusko

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

27

county and we believe but two white men, Dominique Rousseau and Henry Ossem, who were here trading with the Indians. During the winter of '32 and '3 Mr. Harlan came down into this section of the country from Elkhart county on a prospecting tour and concluded to preempt land on Little Turkeycreek Prairie and accordingly built a squatter's cabin about a mile north of the present site of Leesburg (now owned by his great granddaughter, Mrs. Mabelle Fried) and moved into it on the 6th day of March, 1833. His cabin was without doors or windows and when he came to it on that bleak March day he found it full of snow that had to be shoveled out before he could take possession. Blankets were hung up over the holes where the doors and windows should have been to keep out the cold March wind. These were not very cheerful surroundings with which to start anew in life; not a neighbor but one within ten miles and surrounded by a horde of savages who, while displaying no signs of open hostility, were none too friendly to their white neighbors, the Black Hawk war being in progress at

that time. But nothing daunted this hardy pioneer while laying the foundation for his new home.

In 1834 he built a small log cabin on the farm recently sold by his grandson, W. H. Stanley, to Frank Starner, and moved his family into it. This was followed later on by a comfortable hewed log house. In 1848 he built the frame house which is still there.

Mr. Harlan was a man possessed of excellent business qualification and this, backed by energy and industry, brought in time their natural results, a fine farm, a comfortable home and general prosperity. After a residence of twenty-three years in the township, he died at his home on 27th of November, 1856, honored and respected by all those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He was one of the best citizens of the township, a man of unswerving integrity, possessed of a kind heart. He was a kind husband and father, an excellent neighbor, whose death was mourned as a public loss. His remains were laid away in the then new burying ground, the now beautiful cemetery at Leesburg (made so by the excellent care given it by our present sexton, Zeff Byrer).

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

28

Jacob Wright Harlan, a nephew of Elijah Harlan, lived with his uncle and worked on the farm until he was stricken with what was supposed to be consumption. He was taken to Laporte, Ind., for treatment. The doctors told his friends he could not live and he was then taken to the home of another uncle, George Harlan, where, notwithstanding the doctors' decision, he began to improve.

In 1845 Jacob went to California with his uncle and the change of climate fully restored his health. He was the author of a very interesting book, "California from 1846 to 1888," in which he gives many very interesting incidents of his life and the overland trip to California.

Jacob was a soldier during the Mexican war, serving in Colonel Freemont's batallion, in F company, under Captain Hastings. The book is well written, is full of interesting tales of travel and army life. In suming up he says: "So much for the past. Of my future—what? As I have said previously, I am not a prophet.

Mrs. Elijah Harlan (nee Rumly) was the daughter of Thomas and Tabitha Rumly. She was

born May 1, 1810, and was a native of Tennessee. She, like her husband, was possessed of an indomitable will that brooked no such thing as failure when a laudable design was to be accomplished and proved a valuable assistant to her husband, doing well her part in laying the foundation for the prosperity and comfort which her children of three generations enjoyed. Nine children were born to her, all of whom have passed away. None of her descendants now dwell in the community where she wrought and toiled in those pioneer days except a grandson and great grandson, W. H. and Justin A. Stanley.

Previous to her death she bought property in Leesburg, rented the old home farm and moved to town, where she passed away on the 10th day of June, 1883, in her eighty-fourth year.

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

29

THE ERVIN (IRVINE) FAMILY

The Erwin or Irvine family is one of the oldest, if not the oldest family represented among the early settlers of Plain township, as their history can be authentically traced back to the year 1000 A. D.

Their ancestors came from Gaul, a part of them locating in Scotland. Those settling in Scotland in later years wrote their name Irvine, but from their first settlement down to 1675 there were thirty-five ways of spelling the name some of which were Irwaynes, Irvierins, Irwins and Urn. Those who settled in the west end of Ireland were called Erwins. That name was adopted from the fact that the word Erin means west and they were known as Erins, or west-enders, by the other inhabitants. The term was finally applied to whole island. The Erwin clans by intermarriage with the inhabitants of the island soon became truly Irish as did those who located in Scotland become thoroughly Scotch.

The ending of the name Irvine (vine) also signified a strong, resolute man, and this trait of character has been manifested in

all the Irvine clans or families. They were shrewd men and succeeded in securing positions of power, influence and affluence wherever they located. It is a matter of history that Crine Erwine as early as 1004 married Beatrix, the oldest daughter and heiress of Malcolm, the second king of Scotland, and by her he begot Duncan, who afterward became Duncan the first, king of Scotland, so that all the kings of Scotland from Malcolm II until John Balliol were Erwines, descendants of Crine Erwin and the Princess Beatrix.

The Erwin clans began to emigrate to America as early as 1629, some going to Georgia, No. Carolina and Virginia, while others came to Pennsylvania and New York. These grew in number and scattered all over the northern states and Canada. Among them we find many leading men in literature, art and science, military men and statesmen of renown in the different sections of the country where they located. Among those who were prominent in literature was Washington Irving, who was the author of "Knickerbocker's His-

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

30

tory of New York," "The Sketch Book," "The Conquest of Granada" and the "Life of Washington." He was the most popular author of his day. Among the prominent statesmen in whose veins flowed the Erwin blood were Andrew Jackson, Garfield, McKinley and Roosevelt. Over two hundred Erwins have held commissions in the U. S. army and navy from major generals down to lieutenants. What was true of them in the north was equally true of the Erwins who located in the South. Always loyal to their commonwealth, the Irwins were found in almost every regiment of the Confederate army as officers and men.

One of the Irwin families located in Georgia and laid out a town which was called Irwinsville in honor of the founders, which afterward became prominent in history as the scene of the capture of Jeff Davis in 1865.

Their kings, their dukes, now are dust,
And their good swords are covered o'er
with rust,
But their souls today, we trust,
Are now dwelling amid the just.

Charles Erwin came to this country from Dublin, Ireland, in 1814, and settled in Spring-

field, Ohio. In 1802 he was married to Miss Sarah Bennett. In 1825 he moved from Ohio to Elkhart county, Ind., not far from Goshen. In 1835 when the treaty with the Indians was closed and the land in Kosciusko county was put on the market he came to this county and entered the land known later as the Holderman farm now owned by the Riggerbacks. Subsequently as old age began to tell on him he sold the farm and moved to Leesburg, making it his home until the time of his death.

He was the father of nine children, three sons and six daughters—William, James and John, and Polly nee Mrs. P. L. Runyan, Susan nee Bennett, Rebecca nee Moon, Nancy nee Flowers, Aggie nee Rousseau and Quiteria nee Yohn. His sons John and William Ervin entered land in Plain township southeast of Leesburg. John entered the farm now known as the Butterbaugh farm. The farm entered by William has always remained in the Ervin family and is now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Hite Smith.

Two of the grandsons of Chas. Ervin are now living in the coun-

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

31

ty. Ora Ervin, of Leesburg, has been quite prominent, was one of the town board for several years, also trustee of Plain township. During his time as trustee he built the township high school building in Oswego. Arthur Ervin is living in North Webster, where he is carrying on a good business as druggist.

In about the year 1799 or 1800 three Irvine brothers came from Scotland and settled in Pennsylvania. Two of the brothers later moved to other parts of the country. Armstrong Irvine, a son of the brother who remained in Pennsylvania, was the grandfather of Joseph Armstrong Irvine of Leesburg, who came when but a lad of six with his father, James H. Irvine, from New Knightstown, near Harrisburg, Pa., to Kosciusko county, Jan. 26, 1854, and settled on a farm northwest of Warsaw. Here they reared their family and lived until the time of their deaths, which occurred in 1889 and 1890. There were five children born to Mr. and Mrs. James H. Irvine—Joseph A., John, William, George and one sister, Mrs. Thompson.

J. A. Irvine started in life as

a school teacher, following that occupation for fifteen years with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the patrons. He then turned his attention to farming for several years. In 1870 he moved to Leesburg and engaged in pharmacy as an occupation. He was postmaster in Leesburg for eight years during Grover Cleveland's administration and filled the position with credit to himself and the general satisfaction of the public. He is still a resident of Leesburg and holds the responsible position of cashier of the Peoples Bank, notary public and is a registered pharmacist.

The youngest brother, George Irvine, who is now living northwest of Warsaw, was twice elected treasurer of Kosciusko county.

Thus we trace the Erwin line

Down thro eighteen hundred years;

It proves to be a record fine

Of which no Erwin need have fears.

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

32

AN INCIDENT OF PIONEER LIFE

The old tin horn, it's tones we hear
them yet;

The old tin horn that hung on the
cabin wall—

It's welcome tones we never will for-
get;

The old tin horn, sounding its mus-
ical call.

The old tin horn called from labor to
rest,

Or as a warning rang out on the air,
Sending out a stirring request

"Come! The loved ones at home
are needing your care."

The old tin horn has given way to the
bell

And is quite handy withal,

But the place of the horn it never can
fill,

The old tin horn that hung on the
wall.

The who, ho of the pioneer's wife was for some time the only dinner and supper call used by the early settlers and it is said it could be heard distinctly for half a mile as it echoed and re-echoed o'er the prairie or through the forest. Later on when the settlers became numerous and their clearings larger they began to feel the need of some better method of calling the men from the field or clearing. Just at this time the Yankee peddler with his

handy and oftentimes very helpful inventions introduced the tin horn, and tin horns of various sizes soon supplanted the who, ho of the good wife, which was no doubt highly appreciated as a relief to her lung power. At all events it was not long until you could see hanging on the wall of every log cabin a tin dinner horn.

The women took up readily with the new method and soon became adepts in the use of them. Some of them of a musical turn could play a tune on it, which had a certain charm in it especially if it came as a supper call in the dusk of the evening as the shades of night began to fall.

No two women gave the same tone or accent to their calls so every pioneer could tell the sound of his own dinner horn. Even the slow-going ox team of those early days, although other horns might be heard all around, would stop and want to leave the field. Every neighbor in the settlement knew by the sound of the horn what neighbor's horn was blown. This feature was a decided advantage to all as the notes of the

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

33

horn were not used as a call to meals only, but if blown between meals or any uncanny hour was a signal of distress, a call for help, to which every neighbor within hearing would respond.

In those early days the Indians were yet quite numerous and in their going from one Indian village to another would often stop at the cabins of the settlers and ask for something to eat, which was generally given them. One day a company of four or five stopped at a settler's cabin and asked for food. Among them was a Kickapoo Indian. They were somewhat under the influence of fire-water and became quite boisterous and the woman being alone became alarmed and stepping to the door took down the tin horn and blew a long, strong blast. The Indians understood what that meant and accordingly struck the trail for their village, all but the Kicka-

poo, who seemed a little more fuddled than the rest, remained, insisting on having something to eat. In a short time, in response to the woman's call, the husband came in and finding the Indian in the house, caught him by the shoulder and shouted, "What are you doing here, you red devil?" "Me good Indian Kickapoo, me no hurt squaw," acclaimed the Indian. "You get right out of here," he said pushing him toward the door, "or there will be a Kickapoo kicked into the middle of next week." The poor Kickapoo, preferring some easier method of arriving at the middle of the coming week, took a hike.

Incidents similar to this often occurred in those days. Some of them quite amusing and others rather serious. As the Miamis, who were practically controlled by the Prophet, who then was stirring up the Black Hawk war, was none too friendly.

THE BERST FAMILY

Among the pioneers who settled on the prairie west of Leesburg was Conrad Berst, who came from Ohio in 1830, and he with another man selected land on the south side of what is

now the road leading to Clunette. In 1832 he moved here with his family of three sons Henry, Titus and Hiram Berst, and two daughters. When he came back in 1832 he found that

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

34

the land first selected was a part of the Indian reservation and could not be held. He moved north just across the line onto the land now owned by Elam Anglin. Here he lived, improved his farm, reared his family and died at a good old age.

The other settler, thinking he could hold the land he had first selected, remained on it until he finally had to relinquish his claim. Then all the available land was taken up and he had to go elsewhere.

Henry Berst, the oldest son of Conrad Berst, married Miss Mary A. James and moved into the woods on the farm now owned by Frank Diehl, cleared it up, making it one of the finest farms in that section. He was a lively, energetic, hard-working man. For years in connection with his farm work he bought and sold wheat. He was one of the partners who built the Leesburg grain elevator. He was a charter member of Leesburg Lodge F. & A. M., and a life-long earnest worker in the M. E. church, and in its early days was its mainstay morally and financially. While the Berst class existed he was the steward and it is said

of him that when he had collected all the quarterage he could he went down into his own pocket and made up the shortage, which was most always more or less. On account of declining health and old age he quit the farm and moved to Leesburg in 1890 and made his home here until his death, which occurred Dec. 7, 1900. His remains, with those of his wife, who died Jan. 8, 1905, are resting in Leesburg cemetery.

T. G. Berst, the second son of Conrad Berst, owned the farm on the prairie where he remained until 1868 when he built a commodious brick house on the land he had some years before bought of the old chief Benack and his heirs, lying on the south side of the prairie next to the timber into which he moved in 1869. Here he lived and enjoyed his new home for 29 years. T. G. Berst was a quiet, unassuming man, a man whose word was as good as his bond, and respected by all who knew him. He was twice elected trustee of Plain township. He was a charter member of Leesburg Lodge 432 I. O. O. F. passed all the chairs, was a member of the State

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

35

Grand Lodge and treasurer of his own lodge, and an active, consistant member of the M. E. church up to the time of his death which occurred October 26, 1907. His remains and those of his wife Matilda (nee Long), who died January 20, 1901, are resting in the Leesburg cemetery in hopes of a glorious resurrection.

Hiram Berst, the third son of Conrad Berst, married Miss Ho-

ran, a daughter of one of Leesburg's pioneer merchants. He moved to Warsaw and engaged in the livery business for some time, afterward moving to Iowa. When the war broke out in 1861 he enlisted and served to the close of the war as first lieutenant in the 6th Iowa. After the war he returned to his old home in Warsaw and remained there until the time of his death.

OLD SETTLERS' MEETINGS

It is with pleasure and pride that the old soldiers at their reunion or when they meet a comrade, call to mind incidents of the long, weary marches through a pelting snow storm or under the burning rays of a southern sun, and the eye sparkles with old-time enthusiasm as they recall the hair-breadth escapes in hard-fought battles, the stubbornly-contested siege, or the danger attending the duties of the vedette line, or the scout.

So the pioneer of the early thirties used to (but few of them are alive today) gather in their old-settler meetings or picnics and spend the day with their children, grandchildren and fellow

pioneers relating stories of those early days when without a roof to shelter them and often an empty pocketbook and a scanty supply of food, they commenced single-handed and alone, save the faithful, courageous wife, to lay the foundation for a home and a competency for themselves and their children. We have listened with pleasure and interest as they related these stories connected with the erection of the little log cabin with its single room, with its broad fireplace filled with blazing logs, which furnished the heat and often was the only light of the cabin.

One story, told at one of these old settlers' meetings by a man

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

36

who settled in the woods south of the prairie in 1836, we will give as near as we can as he told it. It shows the grit, courage and thrift that was in those people who came to those frontier settlements. "We came to this county, wife and I, from Ohio. We hired a man and team to haul what few traps we had and after a long, tiresome drive over bad roads and often no roads at all we landed in the thick woods south of the big prairie. After paying the man for hauling our things we hadn't a single dollar left. We had a yoke of oxen and a covered wagon in which we slept, two cows and a set of single harness. Our meal barrel was like that of the Israelitish woman, empty. There was plenty of brouse, but we were not used to that kind of diet, so I hustled out and went over to the prairie and found a man who had a little corn to spare. I traded him my single harness for some of that corn, put it in a sack and carried it on my back to Goshen, the nearest mill, and had it ground. I shouldered my meal and packed it home, but when I got back I found we had still another very serious obstacle

in the way before we could proceed with our culinary operations. We had no lard, and we could not make bread without lard. But wife, who always had a knack of getting out of a close corner, was an expert at weaving willow ware and, finding that the lard was out, while I was gone to Goshen to get the corn ground, secured some willows and wove a number of neat little baskets, which we peddled from cabin to cabin on the prairie for lard until we had enough for immediate wants."

The early settlers on the prairies around Leesburg had the advantage of those who settled in the timber. Those settling on the prairie after they had built their cabins could go to work breaking up the ground and plant their corn, which was a very simple operation, the corn being dropped in the furrow, and needed but little further care until ready to harvest. This advantage of the prairie, however, was of great advantage and convenience to those who two or three years later settled on the timber land as it was a source from which they could procure their bread supplies while they

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

37

were engaged in clearing their farms.

An old settler on the prairie told us that in those days he knew every man in the county as they all had to come to the prairie for grain. It got to be a trite saying among them when they got out of grain, "Well, we'll have to go to Egypt for more corn."

Leesburg was for many years the principal trading point in the county, and in fact continued to be so until the building of the Pittsburg railroad.

Fifty-three years ago while such old settlers as the Harlans, the Kirkendalls, the Frenches, Thompsons and scores of other original settlers were still in the land of the living old settlers' reunions or picnics were a yearly occurrence and Leesburg being the original rallying place of the pioneers, or as it was called in those earlier times, the hitching post, it was by common consent of these old vets of the frontier from all over the county the rallying point at which they met from year to year to visit with their comrades of pioneer days. Their meetings were held in the large, beautiful grove

known as the J. W. Long grove, just east of Leesburg. Here they erected a speaker's stand from which these old timers orated of the days of auld lang syne after they had partaken of an old-fashioned, sumptuous picnic dinner.

These yearly gatherings of the old settlers with their children and grandchildren were unique and very pleasant. They were looked forward to with joyful anticipation, where old-time friendships would be renewed and the hearty handshake and the merry "Howdy Sam, Howdy John, and Jake and Tom," was the order of the day. But those days of genuine, old-fashioned, neighborly meetings have passed with the passing of the old pioneers who attended them, and we fear that we have lost to a certain extent the free, open-hearted sociability of those times.

We fellows of 1913 think we are IT
With our interurbans, electric lights and
autos so flip,
Running today with the nobby elite;
We think we have those old-time fellows
right on the hip.

But we lack the old-time friendship,
The hearty welcome, the earnest good
cheer,
The friendly "Howdy," and the strong,
manly grip,
That they had in the days of the old
pioneer.

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

38

THE THOMPSON FAMILY

We have written the stories of the
Harlans, Irvins and Bersts,
Yet others there are of prominence
and worth;
Their history, too, shall soon be re-
hearsed—
How they lived and prospered while
here upon earth.

Abraham Thompson came from Ohio to Plain township in December, 1833, and preempted a quarter section in section 2, which was heavy timbered land, Mr. Thompson choosing it because it was covered with the finest kind of sugar maple. He built a log cabin on the north side of the road, nearly opposite where the barn now stands. Here he cleared two acres and set out an orchard.

In the spring of the same year he came to the prairie and rented fifteen acres of Levi Lee on the east side of what is now the site of Leesburg (the strip rented ran from the north line of the Lee land south to what was afterward known as the David Rippey farm now owned by A. H. Brown). Here he planted corn.

Mr. Thompson, like all those early settlers, was possessed of the strength and courage to un-

dertake the arduous task of clearing up a farm in the thick woods and soon had cleared land enough of his own on which to produce supplies for all his needs.

In 1835, when the land came into the market, he bought his claim of the Government. Here he lived and enjoyed his cabin for thirteen years, dying in 1846, leaving a wife, two daughters and four sons—John, James, Charles and Jesse. After Mr. Thompson's death the family remained in the old home until 1848 when James and John Thompson moved, locating in Champaign county, Illinois, Jesse and Charles remaining at home with the mother. Later on Jesse, the older of the two boys at home, married Miss Permelia McMahon and built a cabin on the south side of the road near where the frame house on the Thompson farm now stands. He afterward possessed the old farm and improved it and 1849 bought what was known as the Blake farm of 126 acres, making in all a farm of 276 acres. In 1863 he built a substantial frame house and moved from the cabin into the new and improved home. He

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

39

lived on the old farm entered by his father, Abraham Thompson, for 72 years. In 1905 he built a brick house at the east end of VanBuren street in Leesburg, in which he died November 6, 1906, after but a few hours' sickness.

Charles Thompson, the youngest son of Abraham Thompson, married a Miss Grindle and they lived in the old first cabin home with his mother until the death of his wife. There was one child born to this union, a daughter, Mrs. Herbert Huffman, now of Leesburg. After the death of his wife Mr. Thompson concluded to go West. This movement broke up the Thompson home and accordingly a frame addition was built onto the end of Jesse's cabin into which the mother moved. In 1860 Mr. Thompson returned to Indiana and the two brothers bought 160 acres of the Enos Willet farm. Later on the brothers divided the land they owned, Jesse retaining the old home place, and Charles moved into a cabin on the Willet land in 1861 and by industry and frugality soon had as fine a farm as is in that section of the country. In 1865 he married Miss Mary Reed who at the present time is a resi-

dent of Leesburg. In 1870 he built a commodious farm house, where he lived and enjoyed the pleasures of home on the farm until the time of his death, in July, 1900.

Jesse and Perry M. Thompson, grandsons of Abraham Thompson, were born and reared on the old farm. In 1885 they purchased the Leesburg elevator and engaged in the grain business until 1891, when Jesse went to Tennessee and engaged in the lumber trade in which he has been quite successful, and at this time is residing in the city of Memphis. P. M. remained in Leesburg carrying on the grain trade until 1891, when he became a member of the Grain & Milling Co., composed of D. H. Lessig, David Brown, H. E. Kinsey and P. M. Thompson, which firm built the mill at the foot of VanBuren street in Leesburg. Later on he sold his interest in the Milling Company and bought lots at the east end of Prairie street, erected a building and is at present engaged in buying grain. He is also engaged in the real estate business. Perry Thompson was for several years clerk of the Leesburg school board. He has

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

40

been for years a prominent and active member Leesburg Lodge, F. & A. M., and is well and favorably known all over the county as a business man.

Charles Thompson, also a grandson of Abraham Thompson, was married to Miss Malvera Dubbs, a daughter of George Dubbs of VanBuren township, and moved to the forty acres of the Dubbs farm heired by his wife. Here he built a house and barn and later bought 130 acres more land. He remained here until 1903 when he traded his prairie farm to the Straus Bros. for 300 acres just south of Syracuse. There he erected a fine brick house with all the modern

improvements, also a barn and all required outbuildings for farming purposes. The house stands on a slight elevation from which one has a fine view of the farm and the nearby town of Syracuse. Mr. Thompson is a thrifty, industrious farmer, which traits of character have brought their usual results—a happy home and an ample competency for the declining years of himself and excellent wife. But one cloud has crossed their sky during married life, the accidental death of their only son.

The descendants of Abraham Thompson are today among the highly respected and prosperous citizens of Kosciusko county.

THE CUNNINGHAM FAMILY

Abraham Cunningham came from Ohio to Plain township in the Spring of 1835 and entered a quarter section lying between Tippecanoe lake and what is known as Stanton lake, and returned to his home in Ohio. In the fall of the same year he returned to Indiana with his wife and family including two single daughters, his son Thomas B. Cunningham, wife and one child

and his son-in-law James Johnston and one child. Thomas B. Cunningham came with his father Abraham Cunningham in the Spring and entered the quarter section known for years as the Fruit Farm now owned by John A. M. Adair and Silas Adams, of Portland, Ind. In the winter of 1835 and 1836 the Cunninghams and their families lived on Bone Prairie. During the winter they

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

41

built three cabins and worked on their own land when the weather would permit.

Two of the cabins were built on the land entered by Abraham Cunningham and one for his son-in-law James Johnson. The third cabin was built on the land entered by Thomas B. Cunningham. In the Spring of 1836 he moved into the cabin on their own land. Oswego was at that time an Indian village. There were no roads east from Oswego, only an Indian trail, or what was known then as a bridle path. The Indians were all around them, it being two or three years before they were moved West. Night after night the Cunninghams were aroused by the howling and screaming drunken Indians as they passed by, enough to make the hair stand on their heads.

Adam Cunningham lived but a few years after he settled in Plain township, but was an industrious, hard-worker up to the time of his death, which occurred in October, 1840. His son Thomas B. Cunningham lived on and improved his farm for 49 years, living to see many of the almost miraculous changes made in the county during that time. He died at his home on May 2, 1884. James Johnson died in 1850.

One of the three log cabins built in the winter of 1835-36 is still standing and forms the kitchen to the Joseph Lippincott home located on the north side of Stanton lake. The building is still in good repair and has been occupied all these years by the children and grandchildren of Abraham Cunningham. Mrs. Joseph Lippincott is a granddaughter.

THE HONORABLE J. B. CHAPMAN

J. B. Chapman was a Virginian by birth. He was born Dec. 24, 1797, in Harrison county, Virginia, and worked with his father who owned a fulling mill and an oil and grist mill, until he was 18 years of age, when he went to Winchester, Va., and

engaged as a clerk in a hotel. He subsequently studied medicine under Doctor Holiday of Parkersburg. Finishing his course of studies he started in the practice of medicine in Tyler county, Va. While living here he married Margaret McCoy May 19, 1819.

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

42

After his marriage he moved to Sistersville and from there to Burlington, Iowa. He remained in Iowa but a short time, that state being, as he said, "Too sickly for even a doctor." From there he moved to Guyandott, Va., and was eminently successful in the practice of medicine. While there he commenced the study of law under a celebrated lawyer by the name of John Laddy.

In 1846 Mr. Chapman started for Crawfordsville, Ind., but stopped at Richmond. While at Richmond, his son, C. W. Chapman, so well known to the citizens of Kosciusko county as Col. Chapman, was born on Sept. 19, 1826. In 1827 J. B. Chapman moved to Crawfordsville and in 1831 to Logansport. The following year he moved onto his claim on Little Turkeycreek prairie, just north and east of Leesburg.

He was prosecuting attorney for the northern district circuit court of Indiana and was elected a member of the Indiana legislature by Elkhart and Lagrange counties. While a member of the legislature he originated the bill and secured its passage that set the boundaries of Kosciusko

county, giving it and the county seat their names—Kosciusko and Warsaw.

Mr. Chapman was rather eccentric and a little inclined to be hasty, which at times resulted in trouble. After he had preempted his land on the prairie he in some way in his dealing with the land office at Laporte angered the land agent there and he cancelled Mr. Chapman's claim and gave it two other men and directed them to drive Chapman off the claim. But nothing daunted him. He placed his case before the authorities at Washington who returned to him his preempted papers and he again took possession of the land, benefited by the plowing, sowing and fencing done by the men who had taken the land by direction of the officer at Laporte.

Mr. Chapman was of a nervous restless disposition that would not allow him to remain long in one place. He travelled all along the Pacific slope, visiting Oregon, California, Washington and Alaska territories, pioneered in Kansas and aided very much in the development of that state. He was president of the first railroad that ran from Leaven-

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

43

worth to Galveston, Texas, was personally acquainted with Presidents Jackson and Martin Van Buren and many other notables of the National Capitol. He served as clerk in the Treasury Department at Washington until his advanced age incapacitated him for the labors of the office, when he returned to Warsaw, where he died October 20, 1877, in his 80th year.

Warsaw is undoubtedly indebted to J. B. Chapman's energy and perserverance while in the

Indiana legislature for the honor of being the county seat of as grand a county as there is in the old Hooier state, and a monument to his memory, erected by the citizens, on the court house square, would be nothing more than a just tribute to one who has worked for their interest.

We are here today and away tomorrow;
Each receives his share of joy and sorrow.

Our joys we share, troubles we will not borrow

As we hasten to our resting place so narrow.

THE BEAGLE FAMILY

The Beagles are of Scottish origin, the forbearers of the family coming from Scotland many years ago and settling in the State of New York. In time they became quite numerous and well and favorably known in that state.

Mr. Stephen Beagle, with whom we shall commence a short biographical history of the family, was born in the State of New York somewhere near the close of the seventeenth century. He was a cooper by trade and by close attention to business and frugality came in possession of a

farm in that State. He married a young lady living near his home town by the name of Elizabeth Dobin. He lived on his farm for several years and improved it.

In 1836 the farm was sold and Mr. and Mrs. Beagle moved to the State of Michigan, where he entered 160 acres of land which he improved. The improvements were of a good, substantial nature, adding much to its appearance and worth. Here he reared a large family of children consisting of Amos, Leonard, Almon, Phoebe, Calvin, Sarah, Emily, Clarissa, Nancy, Abigail,

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

44

Anna, John and Luther, all of whom were noted for their Scotch tenacity to principle, which is so characteristic of the old Scotch Presbyterians. Here he lived for many years, enjoying the labor of his hands and the society of his family. Here he died many years ago honored and respected by all.

Calvin Beagle, the fifth son of Stephen Beagle, was born in New York State Oct. 21, 1811. Calvin Beagle, well known to the citizens of Plain township, inherited to a great degree the sturdy characteristics of the Scotch and Welsh, of which he was a descendant. He remained with the family in Michigan until his majority. On Nov. 27, 1837, he was married to Miss Isabel Walker. The young married couple made up their minds to leave the old home nest and set up business for themselves. They accordingly settled up their affairs and arranged to move to the west where they could procure land much cheaper than it could be had in Michigan. In 1838 he came to Kosciusko county, erected a small log cabin (16x18 feet) in what is now known as Washington township, near the present

site of the town of Pierceton. Here he began life as a pioneer. He was one of the first permanent settlers in Washington township, doing much to promote and improve its material development. He lived on and improved his original purchase for eleven years, until 1849, when he bought and moved to a farm of 120 acres on Bone Prairie in Plain township, now occupied by his grandson, Russel Beagle. Here he lived for fifty years, reared a family of four children, three sons and one daughter, Perry, John C., Luther and Evaline.

Calvin Beagle and his wife Isabel, by hard work, honesty and frugality, soon had a pleasant, substantial home with all the surroundings necessary for convenience on their prairie farm, which they enjoyed for more than fifty years.

Mrs. Beagle departed this life at her home on Bone Prairie June 17, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Beagle were probably at the time of her death the oldest married couple in Plain township if not in the county, having lived happily together for more than 63 years. They lived and grew up from young man and woman-

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

45

hood in Plain township and had the pleasure of seeing and enjoying the many modern improvements in all directions of which the oldest pioneers of the county never dreamed. For 62 years Mr. Beagle was a consistent member of church, prominent in charitable and religious work up to the time of his death, July 26, 1903, at the good old age of 91 years and 4 months.

JOHN C. BEAGLE.

John C. Beagle, the second son of Calvin Beagle and grandson of Stephen Beagle, was born at Beagle home on Bone Prairie, Plain township, Kosciusko county, Indiana, April 7, 1840, and as a farmer's son followed the plow for many days, turning over the soil of the rich prairie, full of Indian relics and bones, which gave the prairie its name. Nothing out of the ordinary farmer's life, which was spent in the fields and woods of the home place, occurred during his youth. Meanwhile, the strict, earnest training of his father and the gentle, loving influence of his mother was forming in him a good, stalwart character, which fitted him for the higher obligations in his

future relations with his fellow-men.

Unlike the Prodigal Son, John appreciated the devotion of his parents to his interest and remained with them until he arrived at the age of 21, assisting them in the labors of the farm. On the 12th of February 1863, he was married to Miss Phoebe Weber. Miss Weber was a native of Stark county, Ohio, and came to Kosciusko county with her parents when she was eleven years old. Shortly after his marriage John, filled with patriotic desire to defend his country and her flag, enlisted in Co. H, Captain James, 129th Ind., and bidding a sorrowful adieu to his young wife and parents joined his regiment at Michigan City. From there the regiment was ordered to Nashville, Tenn. He was with his regiment all through the campaign at Atlanta. After the fall of Atlanta the regiment was sent back to Nashville in time to participate in the terrible battles of Franklin and Nashville. Mr. Beagle received an honorable discharge from the U. S. Army in September, 1865, and returned to his wife and loved ones. There all was joy and

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

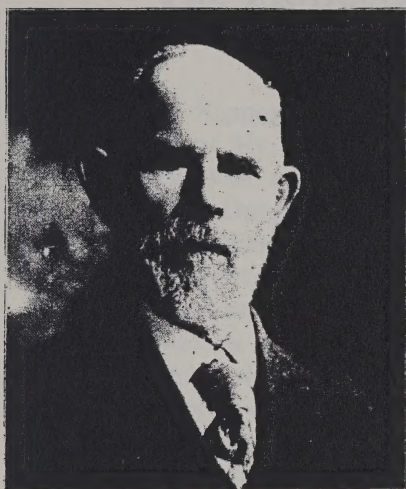
46

glandness "When Johnnie Came Marching Home," not excepting Johnnie himself.

After his return from the army he took up his boyhood business, farming, and followed it six or seven years, when he opened a grocery store at North Webster. He sold goods there and at Oswego for two years, when he disposed of his business and returned to the farm. After the death of his father, Calvin Beagle, John purchased property in Leesburg.

In 1906 Mr. Beagle was elected Auditor of Kosciusko county by a good majority and served four years in that capacity, giving entire satisfaction to all parties concerned. In 1907 he moved to the city of Warsaw and after the close of his term as Auditor bought what was known as the Metcalf Beck property in Warsaw. There were five children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Beagle, Mary, William H., Charles W., Russel C., and Anna May. Russel was married to Miss Minnie Goshorn and they are now living on the old home farm on Bone Prairie. Anna May rendered very efficient service as deputy to her father during his

four years as Auditor. In 1911 she was married to Harry H. Breeding, an employe of the State Bank of Warsaw, and at the present time they are living with her parents in their comfortable home in the city of Warsaw. Politically John C. Beagle has always voted the Democratic ticket, except in local elections, when he voted independent of party, supporting what he thought was the best man for the office. Religiously, he is a Baptist, having joined that church in Oswego in 1869, and up to the time when he moved to Leesburg was one of the prominent working members of the church. He exhibited a special interest in the Sabbath school and was superintendent or assistant superintendent for twenty years. Fraternally he is a member of Henry Chipman Post No. 442, G. A. R. He has served his post as Senior Vice Commander and as delegate to the state encampment, and is today a gentlemen highly esteemed by his comrades and by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

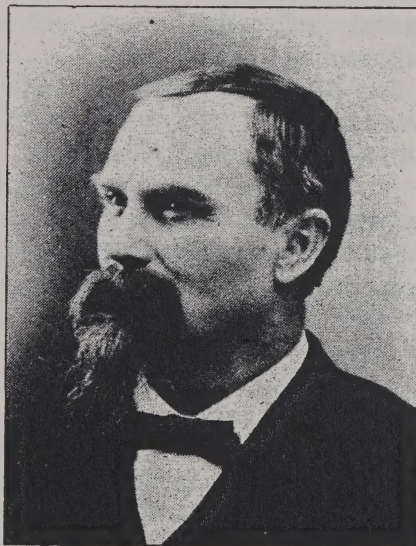


John C. Beagle

Who came to Plain Township with his parents while yet a small boy. While living in Leesburg was elected County Auditor and is now a resident Warsaw, having retired from active labor.

Orrin Watts

Born and raised in Leesburg, but now a citizen of Goshen, Ind. He is a son of Nelson Watts, one of Leesburg's pioneer carpenters.



The Pioneers of Plain Township.

47

THE RIPPEY FAMILY

Matthew Rippey, the great grandfather of Mr. John Rippey, of Leesburg, was a Scotchman, being born at Dundee, Scotland. His wife, a Miss Lowrey, was of Irish descent. He came to this country at an early date, settling in what is now known as West Virginia. He became very wealthy, owning quite large land estates and many slaves.

Mr. Rippey was an old school Presbyterian and very radical, especially in the observance of the Sabbath, and allowed no deviation from a strict observance of it by any of his family, as the following incident will show.

His son, Joseph Rippey, when a young lad went to hear a New Light (or as they were then known, a Bible Christian) preacher. He became a convert to the new religion and joined the church. His father objected and forbid his attendance at the New Light church, but Joseph with the Scotch tenacity of his forbears, persisted in his personal right to attend the church of his choice, maintaining that religion was a matter between himself and his Creator and that it was the duty as well as the

privilege of everyone to study Scriptures for themselves, taking them for their guide instead of the Westminster Confession of Faith. This firm stand of the lad for religious freedom aroused the old Scotchman's ire as well as his religious zeal and to punish the son for not standing by the Presbyterian doctrine he bound him out to a blacksmith to learn the trade. To this the lad like an obedient son submitted without a murmur. After he had learned the trade his father sent him a negro slave, but this he sent back. The father never forgave him for deserting the old Presbyterian faith and when he died, although quite wealthy in mills, land and slaves, he left the son nothing.

Rebecca, the daughter of Matthew Rippey, who lived and died an old maid, inherited all of her father's estate. She managed well and made money and when she died in 1848 or '9, she willed the greater portion of her property to the Presbyterian church, Foreign Missions, etc.

Joseph Rippey, after he had learned his trade as a blacksmith, worked at it until he had

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

48

accumulated considerable money, when he moved to Warren county, Ohio, and afterward to Wayne county, Indiana. Here he accumulated some considerable property, but unfortunately lost a greater part of it by going security for others.

David Rippey, the grandson of Matthew Rippey and son of Joseph Rippey, was married to Miss Rebecca Ann Catey Nov. 1, 1827, and settled on the old state road in Henry county, Ind., near Lewisville, on the Flat Rock River. In 1834 the prairies of Northern Indiana were at that time attracting considerable attention and David Rippey concluded that he would "go out there" and visit his brother, Matthew Rippey, who had preempted land on Elkhart prairie, and while there he took a look at the Turkeycreek prairies, which were being settled quite rapidly. After inspecting the prairies he selected two quarter sections of land that had been preempted by Henry Lee and William Shelly. He bought their claims and entered the land, settling on the claim he bought from Lee (now owned by A. H. Brown). His brother Joseph, who had come

out with Matthew Rippey to Elkhart prairie, took charge of the land until David could go back to Henry county and make arrangements to move.

April 12, 1835, Mr. Rippey started for their new home in Northern Indiana in a big covered wagon, known in those pioneer days as "prairie schooners," drawn by four yoke of oxen. The family at that time consisted of Mr. and Mrs. David Rippey, Henry C., May Jane and William, the latter being a baby just beginning to walk. His sister Mary Rippey, Samuel Fenimore, William Catey and Milton Jeffries accompanying them. Their stock consisted of two horses, some sheep, two cows and calves. On account of the bad roads they made but slow progress. While passing through what was known as Killbuck Swamps, just north of Muncie, then but a small village, they met with what under the circumstances was quite a serious accident in the breaking of the hind axle of the wagon. This caused a delay of one or two days.

After passing through Muncie they found the country very thinly settled. They passed through

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

49

Marion and Lagro, then but small villages. From Lagro to North Manchester there were but very few houses and the roads only such in name. On account of the wolves the stock had to be corraled every night in a pen built of poles and brush and the camp surrounded with fires built of logs and brush as a protection. One night, notwithstanding this vigilance, the wolves caught a calf, but the men with the assistance of a dog drove them away before the calf was seriously hurt.

They crossed Eel River at Manchester, which at that time consisted of but two or three log cabins. They were among the first if not the first emigrants to ford the river at that point. On the last night of their journey, April 25, they camped near the cabin of Peter Warner, on the Tippecanoe River. The next day, April 26, 1836, about noon, they arrived at their home in Plain township, just south of Leesburg. The home was a small hewed log cabin with but one room, covered with clapboards held to their place with poles. The floor was made out of punch-ins, split from a big linn tree.

The fireplace was built of flat stone and the chimney of sticks and mud. A big fire was soon burning in the fireplace, the goods unloaded and preparations made for dinner in the new home which they were glad to reach after a tiresome journey of fifteen days, which today can be comfortably made in less than that many hours.

The old-time neighborly interest in all new-comers was then in vogue and the neighbors made haste as soon as they heard of the arrival of the Rippeys to drop in and welcome them, and to offer any assistance they might need, which was a pleasure and an encouragement to the new arrivals. It was early springtime, the trees and shrubs had begun to array themselves in their beautiful foliage of green and the broad prairie spreading out to the north and west of the Rippey home like an emerald sea of waving grass was truly an inspiring sight, one calculated to encourage and inspire them with a love for their new home.

At that time there were but few settlers in this part of the county, among them were the Summys, the Plummers, Guys

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

50

and the Bishops on the north side of the prairie. On the east was the cabin of Thomas Harper, on the southwest the cabin of John Colyer (this cabin was built on the north side of the Clunette road just west of the gravel pit). Here Mr. Colyer set out an orchard, some of which remained until quite a recent date. On the northwest and just west of Leesburg was the cabin of James Mason, and to the north on little Turkeycreek Prairie were the Chapmans, the Harlans and Rumleys. Leesburg had just been laid out by Mr. Lee and John R. and William Blaine were erecting a store building on the corner now occupied by the Kohler & Co. store room. Mr. Rippey was soon busy fixing up the place, breaking up the virgin prairie soil and planting corn. The breaking was done with four yoke of oxen hitched to a heavy breaking plow. One man drove the oxen and another held the plow and at every third round Mrs. Rippey and her sister followed and dropped a row of corn. In this way they planted 40 acres of corn which grew nicely without any further work and made a fine crop in the fall. That same fall

they put out 50 acres of wheat. In those pioneer days it was almost impossible to keep the wheat flour and meal barrel in good condition, the only flouring mills in the whole county being what was known as the Wyland mill on Elkhart river at a village now known as Baintertown; and they had to rely mostly on potatoes. When the corn became hard enough they grated it and made meal for their Johnny cakes.

The old Indian trail leading from Monoquet to Leesburg and Oswego ran close to the Rippey cabin and while the Indians were not hostile they often frightened the women and children, much to the amusement of the red men.

The following account given to Mr. Rippey by an Indian named Brunell of the killing of the squaw at the death of the chief Monoquet is more complete than that which we gave in a previous chapter and we thought it might be interesting. The Indian, Brunell, said that there was a quarrel or feud between chief Monoquet and a Michigan chief by the name of Kackmets. The latter's daughter came to the village of Monoquet on what seemed to be

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

51

a friendly visit. Monoquet, who up to that time was in good health, was taken suddenly and violently ill. The Indians knowing of the feud between the chiefs immediately suspected this squaw of having poisoned him for revenge. She was taken prisoner and held until after the death of Monoquet. The morning after his funeral she managed to escape and ran north toward Leesburg. When she came to the crossroads south of Leesburg she hid in a hazel thicket at a pond west of the road. (This pond or rather a hollow today can be seen on the left as you go to Clunette). Here they found her and taking her out to the road stabbed her seven times and shot her through the head. Leaving the body lying in the road they returned to their village. Some of the squaws came and dug a shallow grave and buried her, but in a short time dogs had scratched the grave open and ate the flesh off the unfortunate squaw. The Indians had a big pow wow over the supposed avenging of the death of their chief.

The Jeffries, who came with the Rippeys to prospect for a

home in Kosciusko, bought a claim preempted by Thomas Moore. Mr. Moore moved to Illinois.

Politically Mr. Rippey was a Democrat and was elected on that ticket to the state legislature. He was trustee of Plain township and while holding that office built an addition to the school house in Leesburg. That building is now used as a dwelling house. It is the east wing of the Mrs. Mary Hunter residence. He was an active member of the Leesburg M. E. church and served that church as president of the board of trustees for some time. He was also a member of Leesburg Lodge F. & A. M. Mr. Rippey lived on the old farm for thirty-six years. In 1871 on account of failing health he bought property in Warsaw (now the M. E. Parsonage) and moved to that city. He lived in Warsaw but about three years, dying there Feb. 14, 1874, at the age of 67 years. His family consisted of five sons and five daughters. Three of the daughters died while quite young. Henry Rippey, the oldest son of David Rippey, studied law and in 1856, when quite a young man, moved

The Pioneers of Plain Township.

52

to Adel, Iowa, where he practiced law and published a paper, "The Ship of State," for some time, then returned to Warsaw and edited the Warsaw Union until 1861. He was in the hundred day service in the U. S. Army. After coming out of the service and having changed his political faith, he assumed the position of editor of the Northern Indianian. In 1866 he moved to Tallahassee, Florida, where he again took up the practice of law. There he accumulated quite an amount of property before his death, Sept. 26, 1894.

Mary Jane Long (nee Rippey) was married to Robert Long Sept. 25, 1851. They lived happily together in their home just west of Leesburg for 47 years. Mrs. Long died April 24, 1898.

William Rippey lived for several years on a farm just east of Leesburg, but later moved to Kansas, near the town of Ellis, at which place he died May 19, 1894.

Samuel Rippey has been a resident of Chicago for twenty or thirty years, engaged in the stock business.

Charles D. Rippey, after the death of his father, came into

possession of the old home farm, on which he built a fine brick house, near the site of the first frame house built by his father, and made many other improvements. He was in poor health for several years before his death, which occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Emma Gawthrop, in 1908.

John M. Rippey and Mrs. Louisa Zimmerman are the only members of David Rippey's family who are at the present time residents of Leesburg. The Rippeys have always been first-class citizens, honest, industrious and highly respected by their fellow citizens.

Thus it is, as the wheels of time roll around, this and that one of the old pioneers drop out and their children in many cases have moved away so that even the names of such pioneers as the Chapmans, the Frenches, Wades, the Becks and others who used to be active in the affairs of Leesburg and Plain township (it seems that it were but yesterday) are today but a memory. They have passed away and the place that once knew them knows them no more. Such is life.

LEESBURG

When the county was in its premature state the land now occupied by the village of Leesburg was a strip of timber land lying between the Big Turkeycreek and the Little Turkeycreek prairies. The timber was principally scrub or barren oak and on the west and south sides was covered with wild plum thickets. A large patch of these plum trees could be seen on the west side of the old Edmund farm, just north of town, now owned by Mrs. Bartholomew. These plums, although wild, were of a light yellow tint when ripe, nearly as large as a tame plum and of a fine flavor.

The land was preempted by Mr. Lee and his log cabin, the first house built in Leesburg, was located on the lot now owned by Mrs. Daniel Myers.

It was thought by the early settlers that this point lying between the two prairies would be a good one at which to locate a town, surrounded as it was by the prairies which were even then the main dependence of all the settlers throughout the county for supplies, and Mr. Lee was

induced to lay out a part of his land into town lots, which in honor to him, was christened Leesburg. The plat laid out by Mr. Lee commenced in the west end of town at Hickory street, which runs north and south east of the W. H. Stanley residence, thence east to Pearl street at Kohler's corner, thence south to the north side of what is now Prairie street and north to Plum street, containing in all 48 lots.

Subsequently Messrs. Beck, Blaine, Comstock and Mason made additions. Mr. Beck's addition consisted of 24 lots commencing at Pearl street and running east to Harrison street, north to Plum street and south to Prairie street; also 13 lots running east from Main street to Pearl street. The next was Mr. Blaine's addition of 24 lots running east from Harrison street to Canal street, south to Prairie street and north to Plum street; also 3 lots on the south of Prairie street now owned by Mrs. D. K. Brown. The next was made by J. Comstock, running east from Main to Hickory street, north to Plum street and south to the

History of Leesburg.

54

south side of Prairie street. The next was known as Mason's addition, running from Main street to a point west of Samuel Garrett's residence, north to Plum street and south to the south side of Prairie street.

This was the original plat of Leesburg. The streets running east and west were Plum, Van Buren and Prairie. North and south, Main, Hickory, Jefferson, Pearl, Harrison and Canal. This was the original plat and remained so for forty years, when the Mason addition was vacated.

About 20 or 25 years ago Church street was opened, running from Main east to Pearl street. In 1913 Mrs. Robert Wallace laid out an addition of 20 lots commencing on Main street, running east nearly to Jefferson street and south to to Madison street. All of these lots have been sold to responsible parties who will improve them. The grade has been established for cement walks and the walk along the south side of Church street will probably be started before this article is printed. At a recent meeting of the lot owners arrangements were made to

set out shade trees along the front of every lot. The enterprising editor of the Leesburg Journal has the honor of being the first one to build a house in the Wallace addition. Other houses will be built in the spring. It is certainly a very fine location for residence buildings and will add much to the appearance of the beautiful village of Leesburg.

The first session of the county commissioners' court of Kosciusko county was held in Mr. Lee's cabin on June 29, 1836, in the forenoon. The session was opened by the proclamation of the sheriff, but nothing further was done, and they adjourned to meet in the afternoon at the school house, a little log cabin on the lot now owned by Porter Harley, and the following business was the first transacted by the board of commissioners of Kosciusko county.

Three commissioner districts were formed and the county was divided into three townships, Turkeycreek, Wayne and Plain. The voting precincts in the townships were appointed as follows: For Plain township, the school house in Leesburg; John R.

History of Leesburg.

55

Blaine inspector. Wayne township, at the house of James Comstock; John Knowles inspector. Turkeycreek, at the house of John Ryerson; David Maxwell, inspector. At this session John R. Blaine was appointed treasurer and gave a bond of one thousand dollars. Christopher Lightfoot was appointed surveyor, G. W. A. Royse and Henry Felkner were appointed county assessors and Matthew D. Springer was appointed county agent. The seal used by the commissioners at this first session was the reverse side of a dime.

In 1836 there were 289 polls in in the county and taxable property to the amount of \$16,943.20. A tax of fifty cents was levied on each hundred dollars of valuation and fifty cents on the poll.

The first circuit court of Kosciusko county was held at the home of Mr. Lee in Leesburg on October 31, 1836, the Hon. Samuel C. Sample, then presiding judge of the Eight Judicial Circuit Court, presiding, Thomas Comstock and Henry Ward, associate judges. The afternoon session was held in the school house when the first grand jury of Kosciusko county composed of

the following citizens was called: John McConnell, Thomas Harp-er, Sr., John Cook, Andrew Willis, Benjamin Bennett, Samuel Sackett, David Phillips, Samuel Harlan, James Bishop, Luke Van Osdol, Richard Gawthrop, Chas. Erwin and Benjamin Johnston, with James Mason and David Clark as bystanders. Andrew Willis was chosen as foreman and Samuel S. Craig was put in charge of the jury.

At the first session the following gentlemen were admitted to the bar of Kosciusko county circuit court: Gustave A. Everets, C. B. Simpson, Joseph L. Jenneagan, Jonathan Lister, J. D. Defrees and E. M. Chamberlin. The first clerk (appointed) was Richard W. Lonsdale. The first sheriff (appointed) was Thomas Powers, appointed to organize the county. The grand jury returned sundry indictments which were all for minor offenses. There is no record of any trials growing out of these indictments.

The first elected sheriff was Isaac Kirkendall. The first auditor was Alfred Wilcox. A. L. Fairbrother was the first recorder. William Felkner, David Rippey and William Kelly were the

History of Leesburg.

56

first commissioners. The court adjourned to meet on November 2, 1837, at the house of Jacob Losier in Warsaw.

Daniel Jones was the first foreigner who filed his declaration of intention to become an American citizen.

* * *

We of today as a general thing look upon the present state of society with all of its superior advantages and refining influences as far in advance of that enjoyed by the hardy pioneers of eighty years ago. which in many instances is no doubt the case, yet he felt perfectly happy and contented as on a beautiful Sabbath morning in the summer he appeared before the little log church or school house clad in tow shirt and linen breeches, the product of his own little clearing and had been hackled, spun and wove by the deft hands of his wife, mother or sister; his pants supported by a pair of suspenders knit from cotton twine, with a homemade straw hat upon his head and very often without coat or vest, and barefoot. Little groups made up of such as these might be seen Sunday after Sunday eighty years ago as they gath-

ered around the little log building nestling in some sunny nook cut out of the great forest, seated on the adjacent logs or stumps discussing the news of the day while they awaited the arrival of the preacher. The topics were as varied and as interesting as those of today. There were animated discussions as to the prospects of a war with Mexico, its results and probable effects on the country, as viewed by the Whigs and Democrats, the rumor of the probability of building a railroad through the state.

The location of county-seats, and in our own county the strife between the Clippers and Anti-Clippers furnished abundant matter for discussion. In the midst of these discussions there is seen coming down a winding trail out of the midst of the adjacent forest a stalwart backwoodsman mounted on his faithful beast, which had borne him over many weary miles of almost trackless forests to reach his appointments, his saddlebags thrown across behind the saddle, clad in homespun and the never-failing leggings, the man who is to minister to them in spiritual things appears on the scene. He

History of Leesburg.

57

alights and after a hearty greeting to all he enters the house and soon his stentorious voice rings out with that grand old hymn,

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all."

This is the bell that announces the commencement of the service and everyone gets down from his seat on log or stump and goes in to hear the preaching.

When in the house, no large, commodious room with richly frescoed walls met the eye, no decorated, upholstered pews with cushions as soft and luxurious as the reclining beds of the Orient were there to impart to the sin-sick soul the idea that there might be a possibility of being carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease. Not at all. The room was small, the walls the bare logs possibly junked up and mudded. The seats were punch-eons with holes bored in and sticks inserted for legs without the semblance of a back. There was no trained chorus there, no organ nor piano, but there was a living power and holy unction there which is so often lacking

in our religious services today, when the whole congregation led by such soul-inspirers as the Rev. O. V. Leamon joined in singing

"This is the way I long have sought,
Oh Glory Hallelujah!
And mourned because I found it not,
Oh Glory Hallelujah!"

The sermon that followed, while it was not delivered in nice rounded grammatical sentences, it was delivered with power and pathos that soon drew out hearty amens and hallelujahs that would startle a modern Methodist congregation. The preacher's soul was in the message and it touched the hearts of the people and some were added to the class at almost every service.

These old pioneers of Leesburg and vicinity, while happy and content with their surroundings, set to work immediately to plan for their children pleasanter surroundings and greater privileges than they themselves enjoyed. We have often heard them say, "I never had the privilege of doing so and so, or of having this or that when I was young, and I am determined that my children shall not be deprived of these privileges as I was." This idea seems to have prevailed to a large extent among the early settlers.

History of Leesburg.

58

Many of them had not enjoyed the privilege of an education, and they were determined that their children should not labor under the same disadvantage. Although their means were limited, almost the first thing did after the cabin was built and the first crop in the ground was to make arrangements to establish schools for the little ones. This was accomplished under many adverse circumstances. First a school house must be built, then the money must be raised to pay the teacher and a suitable person for a teacher must be found. They did not enjoy the privilege in this direction that we do today with an inimitable school system that puts it within the reach of all to secure a good education without money and price, but obstacles were not allowed to deter these men from the accomplishment of anything when they once determined to have it.

Early in the fall of 1835 it was determined to build a school house in Leesburg for the accommodation of the children of the town and vicinity. The word was sent out and a day appointed when they would have a "bee" to chop and haul logs to build a school

house in which the young Leesburgonians might be taught to lay the foundations for future greatness and usefulness. The male portion of the settlement, armed with axes and the patient, slow-moving ox team, they went to the woods, cut the logs and hauled them to Leesburg. The corner men were selected, skids were prepared and all the preliminary arrangements made for putting up a log building.

In log cabin times it was considered a pretty neat job to run up a nice looking corner and almost every community had its experts in that line, and this often created quite a rivalry as to who could run up their corner the quickest and neatest.

So amid the good-natured rivalry and fun of the times, the first school house built in Leesburg was erected on Lot No. 41 on Priarie street. It would not in architectural beauty and convenience compare very favorably with the magnificent public school building that once stood nearly opposite to it, or our present school school with its spacious rooms, its modern appliances and its fine corps of teachers, but we doubt very much if it affords the com-

History of Leesburg.

59

muity any more satisfaction than the erection of that little log cabin did with its large, open fireplace, little windows and punch-eon floor, erected by those hardy frontiersmen nearly eighty years ago.

That cabin school house did service for several years, when a small frame school house was built at the east end of town on the south side of Prairie street nearly opposite to Mr. Chas. Long's residence.

* * *

When the second school house became too small it was sold for a residence and moved to the lot at the corner of Prairie and Canal streets, on the north side of Prairie street, and later was destroyed by fire. Mr. David Rippey, who was then trustee of Plain township, purchased two lots on the south side of Prairie street at the corner of Jefferson street and erected a frame building. Subsequently that became too small for the increasing number of pupils and an addition was built to the south end with an entrance on the east side facing Jefferson street.

These buildings were used for quite a number of years and

when repairs to a considerable extent became necessary the citizens of Leesburg and the patrons of the Leesburg school requested the township trustee, J. W. Armstrong, to make arrangements for building a larger and more commodious school house, but as there was considerable opposition in the outlying districts, the trustee called a meeting of citizens to decide whether he should build a new school house or repair the old one. There was a good turn-out at the call meeting and after some pretty lively discussion pro and con it was put to a vote and the new building project carried by a fair majority. Accordingly in the spring of 1868 the trustee made arrangements to put up a new brick school house 40x50 feet, two stories high, with four school rooms, two above and two below, and a large entrance with winding stairs on either hand to the rooms above. The old frame buildings were sold to Jacob Stookey, who moved them onto Lot No. 19, now owned by Mrs. Mollie Hunter. The new brick building was erected and stood for fifteen years, when, through some defect in the foundation,

History of Leesburg.

60

the walls began to crack and being considered unsafe it was condemned and torn down.

Shortly after the first brick school house was built the town of Leesburg was incorporated and control of the Leesburg schools passed into the hands of the school board, David Roudebush, President; W. Archibald, Secretary; and H. B. Stanley, Treasurer—who upon the tearing down of the school building, let the contract for the erection of a brick building on the old school lot, 40x50, two stories high, with four rooms, clothes closets, etc., to Frederick Myers. This building was a good, substantial one and was used for about twenty-three years, when it was destroyed by fire.

In the spring of 1908 the school board, consisting of Chas. Thomas, President; Eugene Harley, Secretary; and H. A. Kinsey, Treasurer, bought two acres of land on the south side of Church street of A. H. Brown and built the present school building in which are four large school rooms, a commodious library room, ample clothes closets and basement for two furnaces. The present board is Chas. Jordan,

President; Chas. M. Long, Secretary; and H. A. Kinsey, Treasurer.

Six school houses have been built in Leesburg commencing with the little 10x15 log cabin in 1835 up to the present time, 1913; each one larger and better arranged than its predecessor.

After the pioneers had finished their little log cabin school house the next thing was to look for the coming man whose name was to be handed through coming ages and who was to have the honor of being the first school teacher in Leesburg.

He was found in the person of a young man living at that time in Goshen by the name of W. C. Graves, who afterward became a very prominent factor in advancing the interests of Leesburg and Kosciusko county.

A biographical sketch of his life will undoubtedly be of interest to the readers of this history of Leesburg to which such a sketch really belongs.

W. C. Graves, Leesburg's first school teacher, was born in Clarksburg, W. Va., Oct. 16, 1817. His father, F. T. Graves, was a native of the state of Maryland, his ancestors having em-

History of Leesburg.

61

igrated there with some colonists who came over with Lord Baltimore in 1656. Mr. Graves was the eldest of a family of seven children. Unlike many of the early settlers, he enjoyed the advantage of an academic education and at the age of sixteen he was quite proficient in all the English branches, especially in penmanship, which the early records of Kosciusko county will show. His father died in December, 1833, when he was but 16 years old, and from that time he was thrown upon his own resources, with no time for literary pursuits. But the foundation had been laid upon which he built a most excellent business character. Although Greeley had not written that timely maxim, "Go West, young man," still he acted upon it and moved to this county in 1834 while it was yet unorganized and at once commenced the task of building up a character and the accumulation of a fortune. To accomplish this required nerve, perseverence and untiring industry to overcome the many adverse circumstances which were inevitably connected with the settlement of a new county. When Mr. Graves

came to the county there was not a canal, a railroad, or even dirt roads or bridges in the county. All streams had to be forded or crossed by ferry. What were called roads were simply Indian trails, made by the Indians who still lingered in their wigwam villages, loath to surrender this beautiful county to the greedy, pale-faced land seekers.

In the fall of 1835 the citizens of Leesburg, after the erection of their log cabin school house, which had the honor of being the first school house, not only in Leesburg but in the county, began to look around for a schoolmaster. Mr. Graves was recommended to them and the situation offered to him. He accepted and was duly installed into the honorable position as first school teacher in Kosciusko county. He taught the school for nine months, when he returned to Goshen and entered the employ of John D. Defreese, a merchant in the then village of Goshen. After a short time spent in the employ of Mr. Defreese, he was offered and accepted the position of deputy under Mr. Thomas, then clerk of Elkhart county. Almost every young

History of Leesburg.

62

man has some favorite calling which he would prefer to all others and Mr. Graves was no exception to the general rule, his choice being that of law. While performing the duties of deputy clerk a rare chance was thrown in his way to prepare himself for this profession. He became acquainted with the Honorable Jonathan A. Lister, of So. Bend, who was one of the ablest and most celebrated lawyers of the state. Mr. Lister was highly pleased with the personal appearance and splendid business qualifications of young Graves, and learning that he desired to enter upon the study of law, offered him the position of clerk in his office and all the advantages of his personal instruction and his large law library could afford him in taking up his chosen profession. This offer Mr. Graves very gladly accepted and for one year availed himself of all the opportunities the position afforded. At the end of that time he returned to Kosciusko county, opened an office and commenced the practice of law.

Graves remained in Leesburg three or four years in which he was very successful and estab-

lished quite a reputation as a lawyer. In 1840, at the earnest solicitation of his friends, but contrary to his own wish and judgment in the matter, he consented to be a candidate for clerk of the court of this county and was triumphantly elected. Mr. Graves always regretted having accepted the office and looked upon it as the great mistake of his life. In 1842 he was re-elected to a full term of seven years. He gave the office his personal attention and this county never had before or since a more prompt, accurate clerk of the court than W. C. Graves. In 1847 he engaged in the mercantile business in Warsaw and as the business increased, rapidly demanding all his attention, he resigned the clerk's office in 1848. In 1849 he was elected as Representative to the state legislature. In 1862 he was elected Joint Senator for Wabash and Kosciusko counties. As a Legislator and Senator he acquitted himself with credit and honor to himself and to his constituents.

In 1863, in connection with S. A. Chipman and others, he organized the First National Bank of Warsaw and was elected cash-

History of Leesburg.

63

ier, which position he held until it went into liquidation in 1881. In the same year the State Bank was organized with W. C. Graves as president. In this capacity he served one year. In the spring of 1882 he again engaged in the dry goods business in the rooms now occupied by the postoffice in the city of Warsaw, in which business he continued until the time of his death, which occurred December 15, 1884.

Mr. Graves was one of nature's true noblemen, even-tempered, kind and courteous to all with whom he was connected, socially or otherwise. His untiring industry, perserverance, integrity and frugal habits brought to him their reward, not only in the accumulation of ample means, but in the respect and honor that was accorded him by all who knew him, and it is with pride we record his name as one prominent among the first inhabitants of Leesburg.

For just half a century he was intimately connected with the interests and growth of Leesburg and Kosciusko county. He lived to see the little log cabin of the early settlers replaced by the almost palatial farm house. He

saw the few acres that were so full of stumps and roots that it was almost impossible to hold a plow in them spread out into large, finely-cultivated farms with commodious barns and out-buildings, crowded with all sorts of farm implements and the products of as fine a county as the sun ever shone upon.

He saw the educational institutions of the county, which started by him in the little log cabin school house in Leesburg, grow and expand until the county was dotted with magnificent school houses, filled with corps of teachers that will compare favorably with any in the world. He lived to see good roads all through the county in place of the Indian trails, good bridges spanning our streams, instead of the ferry and the ford, and a handful of pioneers increased to a happy and prosperous people of fifty thousand. So many and extended have been the improvements in Kosciusko county since as a lad of seventeen Mr. Graves came to Leesburg that it seems more like a tale of knights than hard stubborn facts. And upon the foundations laid by such men as W. C. Graves in pioneer days

History of Leesburg.

64

rests the present plenty, pleasure and comfort enjoyed by the citizens of Leesburg and Kosciusko county.

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KOSCIUSKO'S FIRST SHERIFF.

Mr. Isaac Kirkendall, the first elected sheriff of Kosciusko county, was a native of Virginia. Was born in Culpepper county of that state in January, 1787, and at the time of his election he was a resident of Plain township. He was a man of tall stature and was entirely bald except a thin fringe of gray around the lower and back part of his head. When he was 59 years old he was elected sheriff of Kosciusko county at an election held in Leesburg in 1836, and was reelected in 1838. Although he came here among the first settlers, he never pre-empted any land, but lived with his brother, Jacob Kirkendall, on his farm northeast of Leesburg on the place now owned by Mr. W. H. Albertson. He was a very eccentric man in many things; he was a blunt, out-spoken man, and somewhat inclined to be profane, yet he was possessed of a kind, genial disposition. In all his associations with his fellow citizens he was a companionable,

good-hearted fellow—what would now be termed a “good mixer.”

It was said that while he was running for sheriff the first time, they were holding a little political meeting in Leesburg and nothing would do but Ike must make a speech. After a large amount of urging he made the following short, pointed speech: “Gentlemen, I am a candidate for sheriff. and if any of you need hanging while I am in office I will hang you as dead as h—l.” He was elected, and as none of them were hanged during his term of office, it is fair to suppose they did not need it.

The first sheriff was not of a literary turn of mind, and it is said had a great dislike to letter writing, and was seldom known to write. If he did it was short and to the point. After he settled in this county the folks back in Ohio used to urge him to write them. It is said he used to give the following account of his attempt to comply with their request: “The folks in Ohio had been teasing me like h—l to write them a letter, so one day when at Jake’s I took pen, ink and paper and sat down at the table and dated it at Leesburg, Kos-

History of Leesburg.

65

ciusko county, Ind., June 1, 1835. I commenced my letter with, 'Dear Brother: I am well,' and here my thoughts failed to come to time. Not a word could I think of to say. Finally I recollected I was living at Jake's, so I wrote 'Jake's are well.' Here I came to another and longer pause than the first and do what I would, I could not think of another word, so I closed my letter by saying: 'And if you are well, then by G—d all's well. Yours truly, I. K.'''

Politically, he was a Whig, and after the dissolution of that party he was a Republican, but never was inclined to quarrel

with his friends and neighbors about religious or political differences. The same year that he was elected sheriff the county seat was moved to Warsaw and at every term of court during the four years in which he served, the first sheriff of Kosciusko county could be seen passing through Leesburg riding a large, dappled gray horse on his way to attend court in Warsaw. With all his eccentricities and blunt manner, he made a good and efficient officer. He was a true friend and a congenial neighbor. In March, 1863, he was taken with a violent attack of lung fever, of which he died March 17, aged 70 years.

THE FIRST MERCHANTS

The first lot sold in the original plat of Leesburg was lot 24 on the north side of VanBuren street at the corner of Pearl now occupied by the Journal, postoffice, barber shop and the residence to the west of the barber shop. It was sold to a Doctor Seleick, of LaGro. He failed to comply with the sale contract and it was afterward sold to Metcalf Beck, who built the buildings now on it with the ex-

ception of barber shop. That was built by Jordan Becknell in 1890 as an office for the Kosciusko County Standard.

The first white child born in Leesburg was Peter Weimer, a son of Jacob Weimer, in December, 1833. The first death in the township was Henry Ruby, a son of John Ruby, who died April 18, 1833. Within five days after the death of the Ruby boy the following deaths occurred: Malinda

History of Leesburg.

66

Harlan, April 19, and Maria Harlan on the 23rd. As there was at that time no regular burying ground, they were buried on the Samuel Thomas farm, east of town, now owned by his daughter, Mrs. George Nicely, of Warsaw.

The first frame house built in Leesburg, and most likely in the county, was built on the south side of VanBuren street on the site now occupied by the harness shop and the Chas. Thomas grocery store, by Wm. Exkew. It was known for years as the old American Hotel. This building burned down some fifty years ago. At the time it burned the building was owned and run as a hotel by Mr. Bortz. Here Mr. Exkew sold groceries and whiskey (which in those days was considered a legitimate part of the grocery trade) in the west part of the building and a hotel in the balance of the building for some time.

The second log house built in Leesburg was built on the north side of VanBuren by Mr. Arnold Cain, a brother-in-law of J. B. Chapman. This building is still standing, but has put on modern airs, and no one would suspect it

to be the oldest residence building in town, but so it is. It is now and occupied by Calvin Baugher.

The first dry goods store in Leesburg was kept by J. R. and William Blaine. The Blaines came from Highland county, Ohio, and with a small stock commenced business on the corner across the road north of the Bone Prairie school house, calculating to form a nucleus for a town at that point, but when Leesburg was laid out in a much more favorable location for a village, in 1835, they moved to Leesburg and built a store room on the south side of VanBuren street, on the corner of Pearl street.

There were several of the Blaines. Old James Blaine, known to many of the old settlers as "King Jimmy;" he was, we understand, the father of J. R. Blaine, William Blaine, Robert Blaine and Alexander Blaine. The Blaines were quite prominent factors in the early settlement of Leesburg and Plain township. They were the leading men of the community. Old "King Jimmy" Blaine and the father of James G. Blaine, at one time Secretary of State and candidate

History of Leesburg.

67

for the Presidency, it is said, were brothers. That would make J. R. Blaine and brothers cousins to James G. Blaine. How true that is we do not know, but that is the rumor and we think there is a striking resemblance between the original Blaines of Leesburg and the one-time Secretary of State.

Old Jimmy Blaine built the house where Jacob Whiteleather now lives in 1838, and, we believe, died there.

John R. Blaine built where William Easterday now lives in 1835 and continued in business in the burg for upward of twenty years, and undoubtedly made a good deal of money, driving fast horses and living in good style.

In those days the merchants used to go to Fort Wayne for much of their goods and Metcalf Beck, then a young man and a merchant in a small way, was carrying on business on the corner opposite to J. R. and William Blaine. When Beck went to Ft. Wayne he took his cane and pack, walked there, bought his goods and walked back, while the Blaines drove down with their fine turn-out. Some one remarked to Mr. Beck, "Why don't

you ride down to Wayne like the Blaine Bros?" "Oh", said he, "that is all right. I am walking to ride, while they are riding to walk."

Robert Blaine built the Empire Hotel building, now owned by J. A. Irvine and used as a bank, telephone exchange, store room and residence. He had charge of the hotel for a number of years and was a splendid landlord. In 1861 he moved to Warsaw and took charge of what was then known as the Popham House. Alexander Blaine was the village blacksmith for a number of years. We recollect his shop, which stood on the corner of the lot where the Frank Bortz residence now stands—a long, narrow building fronting on Van Buren street with the sign above the double doors—"A. Blaine, Blacksmith." He built and owned a residence on the lot now owned by Mrs. Bartholomew up to the time of his death. In later years, after the building of the C.W.&M. railroad, he carried the mail to and from the depot and for several years the form and voice of old Uncle Alex could be seen and heard as he mounted his dray and shouted to his old

History of Leesburg.

68

mare, "Git up, Kit." He often made drives to and from Warsaw and people would ride down to Warsaw and back and when they left him would say, "Much obliged, Alex." The old man finally got tired of his thank you customers and one day a citizen of Leesburg took passage with him to Warsaw and upon his arrival there jumped out and shouted, "Thank you, Alex." The old man called after him, calling him by name, "Hold on, that won't pay. Thankin's won't buy oats for old Kit," and a quarter was added to the thanks from that on. At last the old gentlemen got too old and infirm and went to live with his son Elder Blaine at Akron, where he died well up in years.

John R. Blaine, the first merchant of Leesburg and the last one of his family, was brought to Leesburg from Kansas on December 10, 1890, and laid to rest with the members of his family, who had passed on Beyond. The remains of the Blaines are resting in the west side of the original cemetery plat. The following obituary appeared in the Kosciusko County Standard of December 11, 1890:

THE LAST OF HIS GENERATION.

John Roan Blaine was born in Greenfield, Highland county, Ohio, Sept. 9, 1811. Came to Kosciusko county, Ind., in 1834. Was married to Miss Hannah Nye, south of Warsaw in 1836. He started business in the midst of the woods just north of Bone Prairie. Remained there one year and moved to Leesburg in 1835, where he continued in business for twenty years, when he moved to Goshen. In 1861 he was appointed registrar of lands for the southern district of Missouri by President Lincoln and moved to Calhoun of that state. In 1866 he moved to Decatur, Illinois. He died Dec. 5, 1890, while on a visit to his son, J. C. Blaine, at Ottawa, Kans., aged 76 years, 2 months and 28 days. His remains were brought by his son, Frank J. Blaine, to Leesburg, his old home, for interment on the 9th day of December, 1890, where they deposited them to rest by the side of three generations of his blood relations of which he was the last.

History of Leesburg.

69

METCALF BECK, THE SECOND MERCHANT.

Mr. Metcalf Beck was the next merchant who sold goods in Leesburg. At that time all stores were conducted on the general or variety plan and sold everything from a paper of pins to a plowshare.

Mr. Beck was of English origin, was born in Thonwaite, West Riding of Yorkshire, England, March 17, 1812. He came with his father, Aaron Beck, to America, landing at New York July 11, 1821. They lived in Pennsylvania until 1825, when they moved to Ohio.

Mr. Beck was a weaver by trade, but this not agreeing with him, he commenced his mercantile career by clerking for John W. Morris and Z. T. Moore, at Wooster, Ohio. He afterward engaged in grocery business with his father at Wooster, remaining with him until he sold out in 1835. He then started for the West, stopping at Cleveland, Toledo and Fort Wayne, arriving in Kosciusko county in June, 1835, and entered the employ of Judge James Comstock as a clerk. Mr. Comstock at that time kept store in the northeast corner

of section 29, township 32, range 6 east. Mr. Beck said the first article he sold after entering Mr. Comstock's employ was a half pound of tobacco to Benjamin Bennett July 2, 1835.

As the country was new and the customers few it did not pay to keep the store open all the time and it was required of young Mr. Beck to assist in mowing grass, chopping wood, etc., in connection with the keeping of the store.

In the fall of 1835, Leesburg being then the principal trading point in the county, it was thought best to move the Comstock store to Leesburg. Mr. Beck clerked in the Comstock store until 1836, at which time he married the Judge's daughter and bought out the store. Mr. Beck continued in business until 1855, when he sold out to his half-brother, Alfred Beck, who after conducting the business for nearly two years sold it back to his brother Metcalf Beck. He remained in the employ of his brother until the time of his death in 1866.

Mr. Beck remained in the business at the old store until May 1863, when he sold the store and all his real estate to Edward Moon

History of Leesburg.

70

and moved to Warsaw. Mr. Beck was married three times. To his first marriage three children were born—Mary E. Beck, Hudson Beck and Victoria Beck—all of them born and raised in Leesburg. Hudson Beck was quite prominent among the business men of Warsaw for several years. Mr. Beck's second wife, to whom he was married April 18, 1857, was Miss Catherine Lewis, a most excellent woman, a model wife, loved and respected by all who knew her. She died at Danville, New York, May 22, 1867. The remains were brought to Warsaw for burial. His third wife was the daughter of Mr. J. P. Steyker, a lady well known for her steadfast Christian integrity and deeds of charity. Mr. Beck was engaged in active business life in Leesburg and Warsaw sixty years or more and during all these years sustained an unsullied business character. In fact he was noted for integrity and promptness in all his business transactions. It was said, and we believe truthfully, of Mr. Beck that no man lost a moment by his not keeping his engagements. In all his business relations he was always governed by

a high sense of honor, setting an example worthy of being followed by the business men who were to come after him in Leesburg and in the county. He was respected and looked up to by men of all classes for many years, and his opinion given on almost any subject was considered the best that could be obtained. When he moved to Warsaw, although in his eightieth year, he engaged in active business with all the zest of a man just in the prime of life. He often visited Leesburg and seemed to enjoy relating stories and incidents of things which happened in the first settlement of Leesburg, when he as a young man of twenty-three commenced his business career that was so full of honor and credit to himself. It is pride that we add the name of Metcalf Beck to the list of men who were among the first to do business in Leesburg, the first town in the county. He died at his home in Warsaw Oct. 15, 1896, at the good old age of 84 years, 6 months and 28 days. The following epitaph might be appropriately placed on his tomb, "Honesty, Industry and Benevolence Were His Characteristics."

LEESBURG'S FIRST CEMETERY

Already the bosom of Mother Earth had opened to receive the untold thousands of our predecessors, the sons of the forest who had melted away like the hoar frost before the rising sun to make room for the swarming millions of the sons of Japheth. The places which marked their burial grounds in this vicinity have long since been obliterated by the farmer's plow. For three years after the first settlement in this vicinity the whites had no regular place of burial. The first who died in Leesburg as has been stated were buried on the farm entered by William Trammell afterward owned by Samuel Thomas, east of the burg. Two of Elijah's Harlan's children were buried there. A few were buried on the Kirkendall farm now owned by Mr. Albertson, but we believe none but members of the Kirkendall family were buried there.

There was another burial place on the southwest part of the farm formerly owned by H. B. Stanley. This land was preempted by a man of the name of McConnell, but at the time of the interment made there it was

owned by the Norrises and Knoxes. Several of the Norrises, Harlans and Knoxes were buried here.

At another place on the right of the road south from Oswego, some were buried and here one tombstone, we think, still marks the place of burial. Another burial place was on what was for many years known as Hamilton mound, now in Winona Park, known as Indian Mound.

1838 was what was known as the sickly season when the settlement, which up to that time was exceedingly prosperous, was stricken with such a scourge of sickness that hardly enough well people were left to bury the dead. Two, three and four were often taken out of one family and in some cases whole families were smitten down and died. Many became horror-stricken and discouraged and left the county entirely. Like Abraham of old the people felt the necessity of a place for the burial of their dead. The location and securing of a spot of ground for that purpose became the need of the hour.

Accordingly W. B. Blaine, Levi Perry and James Rannells were

History of Leesburg.

72

appointed to select and purchase a tract of land that would be suitable for a burial place for the dead of Leesburg and vicinity, and they purchased a beautiful site of James Mason, just east of the log house in which he then lived, containing one and one-half acres, for the sum of forty dollars; the same being the southwest corner of the present cemetery at Leesburg. In order to pay Mr. Mason for this land a subscription was put into circulation of which the following is a copy with the names of those who signed and the amounts paid:

We, the undersigned subscribers, do promise to pay the sums annexed to our respective names, to the trustee that may hereafter be selected, for the purpose of paying for a piece of land that has been bought of James Mason near the town of Leesburg by W. B. Blaine, Levi Perry and Jacob Rannels, who were appointed for the purpose of selecting and purchasing a piece of land for the use and purpose of a burying ground for said town and neighborhood.

John R. Blaine.....	paid \$5.00
James Knight.....	2.00
Joseph Blue.....	1.00

Daniel C. Clark.....	paid .50
M. Beck.....	paid 3.00
A. Sears.....	1.00
Henry L. Farmer.....	1.00
David Rippey.....	paid 3.00
J. W. Coy.....	paid 2.00
Henry Lee.....	2.00
P. L. Runyan, Sr.,.....	paid 5.00
E. S. Blue.....	3.00
Abe Buckley.....	1.00
James Blaine.....	2.00
William Shelly.....	1.00
Robert Robinson.....	1.00
Michael E. Horan.....	paid 3.00
Jonas Hacker.....	1.00
John W. Dunnuck.....	2.00
John Geer.....	paid .50
Thomas Rumbly.....	paid .50
E. P. Davis.....	1.50

Twenty-one dollars of this subscription was collected when signed leaving a balance yet due on the subscription the sum of eighteen dollars and fifty cents, but as this money must be paid to Mr. Mason before they could have possession, the business men advanced the balance due and paid Mr. Mason the full amount, (\$40) agreeing to wait for their money until the full amount signed was paid in, but this was not all collected and a final settlement made with the committee until April 4, 1839. A

History of Leesburg.

73

more beautiful spot for a cemetery could not have been selected. The original plat commencing at the tool house and running south to the open field and west to the open field, is situated on a little knoll, the grade descending slightly from it on all sides. Unfortunately this pretty burying ground was not laid out in lots in regular order by the promoters in the beginning.

In those day when a person died the neighbors came in, someone got a stick and took the measure of the corpse, went to the cabinet shop, if there was one. If there was none, which was often the case, it was taken to some carpenter, or any man who was handy with tools, and a coffin was made and the grave dug gratuitously by the friends and neighbors without any regard to any regular plan, which accounts for the irregularity of the graves in what is now known as the old part.

The early burials were made mostly along the south side of the plat and was pretty well filled up. Most of those early graves had nothing but a board at the head and foot of the grave which was soon rotted away.

Their friends moved away and scores of people lie there in unknown graves. Some years ago, we think while Mr. Ed Carpenter was sexton, a place was selected for a burial in what appears to be an open space along the south side and they began to dig, but they soon dug into a former grave. The dirt was thrown back and no attempt to dig a grave has been made in that place since.

Quite large additions have been made to the original plat by Mr. Robert B. Long, Mr. Amos Garrett, Mr. Samuel Linam and Mr. Reuben Brubaker, all of which has been regularly laid out in lots, numbered and the same filed in the Clerk's office. A four-foot cement walk has been laid by the citizens from town to Leesburg's City of the Dead, and today it is one of the most beautiful, well-kept cemeteries in the county, under the supervision of the present sexton, Mr. Zeff Byrer.

In the old plat are many graves of the first settlers of Leesburg and vicinity whom we are apt to think of as old men, but most of them passed away before they had reached the meridian of life.

History of Leesburg.

74

Here lies the body of Dominique Rousseau, whose name was associated with the very earliest history of Leesburg and the adjacent country. He was among the first, if not the first white man to stop permanently on these beautiful plains. He saw the gradual advance of the whites and the receding of the inferior race before them. He saw the rude wigwam of the Indian give way to the cabin of the settler and Christian song and prayer service take the place of the war whoop and dance. He saw the long tangled grass, which covered all the prairies, give way to fields of waving corn, wheat and oats, and yet he died a comparatively young man, on the 5th of December, 1845, and his body is resting in this beautiful, historic cemetery.

Here we find the tomb of Mr. Charles Ervin, one of the first to turn a sod on Little Turkeycreek prairie, and whose name was associated with all the scenes of the pioneer days in and around Leesburg, who died when but a few years past the zenith of life, on the 10th of April, 1848, at the age of sixty-three.

Among the first to be buried

in the Leesburg cemetery were Mary F. Runyan, daughter of P. L. and Mary Runyan, who died August 22, 1836; Joseph Blaine, son of John R. and Hannah Blaine, died July 23, 1837; Elizabeth Rippey, died August 21, 1837; Mary E. Blue, daughter of Eli and Elizabeth Blue, died August 30, 1838. This was the daughter of Dr. Blue, a resident of Leesburg in an early day. He was like the Apostle Luke a physician to both soul and body, being both doctor and preacher. He owned the lot now owned by Rodol Plummer. His residence, which stood flush with the street and alley, was burned down several years ago. His office, a small frame building, stood just west of it. He met with a tragic death a few years after the death of his daughter, in Noble county. His remains are resting near his old home in the Leesburg burial ground.

A little further on and we come to the grave of I. Robinson, who died Sept. 1, 1839. He was among the early settlers and built a cabin on one of the best sections on Big Turkeycreek prairie, not more than half a mile

History of Leesburg.

76

from where he now rests in his last, long sleep and no doubt had bright visions in his mind of a pleasant home amid waving fields of grain, and a competency for his old age. But alas the greed and inhumanity of his fellowman robbed him of his land and dashed to earth his visions of future joys and comfort. He became discouraged and died a poor man, owning but a small lot in Mason's addition on the opposite corner from Mr. Brubaker's residence, now owned by Mrs. Angeline Powell.

It seems from a statement we received from one of the earliest settlers on the north side of the prairie that Mr. Robinson came here in a very early day and took up his claim and built his cabin, putting the last clapboard on the roof and the last stick in the chimney, finishing just at dark. He wanted to move in that night in order to hold his claim, but his friend, Wm. Shelly, who held a claim on the land now owned by Mr. Brubaker and had been assisting him, persuaded him to wait until morning as he was too tired to move that night, as there was certainly no danger of anyone jumping the claim during

the night, so he accepted the invitation and spent the night with the Shellys. But what were his feelings when he arose in the early dawn and, looking toward his cabin, saw the smoke rising from his chimney. During the night another had jumped his claim, taken possession of his home, and in spite of every effort on the part of Robinson, held it until his dying day. And, we believe not one of his descendants own a foot of it, or are any better for having had possession of it. Many such scenes and incidents transpired in the early settlement of this country, which often ended in the death of one or both parties concerned, but Mr. Robinson being a man of a mild, peaceful disposition, left his man in possession of his ill-gotten farm.

Leesburg's cemetery is not without its illustrious dead, or those intimately related to those who became illustrious in the Nation's history; for instance here we find the tomb of James S. Blaine, the father of the Blaine family, who used to be so numerous and influential in the burg in its early history, known in those pioneer days as "King

History of Leesburg.

76

Jimmy," who it is said on very good authority to have been the uncle of James G. Blaine, once prominent in the Nation's history.

A little farther on we come to graves of John Wanamaker and wife, the grand parents of John Wanamaker, past Postmaster General and multi-millionaire merchant prince of Philadelphia, Pa. As we look upon the page of history recorded upon the tombstones of Leesburg's cemetery, we are forceably impressed by the many changes that come to us during this short, transitory life. Here, too, we find the resting place of Squire J. G. Watts and that of twenty-four others of the Watts family, all of whom were at one time prominent men in the affairs of Leesburg. But of all that family, not one of that name is now a resident of the burg.

J. G. Watts was a Justice of the Peace for eighteen years in succession; elected year after year, although politically he was opposed to the large majority of his friends and neighbors, but notwithstanding this, his honesty and integrity won the confidence and held the esteem of the

people until his dying day. No harmful word of his neighbor was ever heard to fall from his lips. He used often to say, "If I can't speak well of my neighbor, I'll speak no ill." He passed away as peacefully as he had lived, in his home in the house now owned by Mr. Clyde Hill.

The graves of a majority of those who were first buried in the cemetery were without stones, as at that time it was hard to procure tombstones, the nearest points at which they could be purchased was Fort Wayne or Michigan City, and many of them were sandstone of crude make and often without any epitaph upon them. Their graves have sank and are today unknown. So soon does the hand of time obliterate all trace of those who today are prominent in the social, business and religious circles of life, but tomorrow are cut down and the memory of them soon passes from the minds of the living.

* * *

P. L. RUNYAN

As has already been stated, the Blaine Bros. were the first merchants in Leesburg, followed by Judge Comstock under the direc-

History of Leesburg.

77

tion of his son-in-law, Metcalf Beck. The next was J. B. Chapman, who previous to the laying out of Leesburg had been selling goods at his home east of town. He moved his goods into a log building on the lot where Rodol Plummer's furniture store now stands. After J. B. Chapman came Dominique Rousseau, who built a hewed log house on the lot now owned by Samuel Garrett and at present occupied by Wallace butcher shop, and brought his goods from his Indian trading post on Bone prairie to Leesburg and opened up his store. He afterward bought J. B. Chapman's stock of goods and built a store room on the north side of VanBuren street, where the Stookey restaurant is at this time. Here he kept store for two or three years, but finally sold out and moved to his farm northeast of town, now owned, we think, by Emanuel Dubbs.

The next who were among the first merchants of Leesburg was P. L. Runyan and Thomas Thomas, who came from Goshen in 1836 and built a store room on the southeast corner of the lot now owned by Dr. P. G. Fermier. This was a long, one-sto-

ry frame building and stood flush with the street and alley, with the store in front, the back being used as a residence. He was in business here for three years, when he moved to Warsaw in 1839. Mr. Runyan became one of the most prominent men among the pioneers of Leesburg and Kosciusko county. He was born August 9, 1806. His father and mother, Abraham and Sophia (Lynch) Runyan, were natives of Virginia and moved shortly after their marriage to Ohio in 1801.

The youth and early manhood of P. L. Runyan was thus entirely spent upon the frontier; on the advance wave of civilization, and as a consequence he did not enjoy the privilege and benefits of even a good common school course.

The school houses in which he attended were like the majority of pioneer school houses, a log cabin, puncheon floor, whose windows were most likely simply holes cut through the logs, covered with greased paper for glass. The branches taught being principally spelling, reading, a simple course in arithmetic, writing and a smattering of

History of Leesburg.

78

grammar, and the system of teaching was of the most simple and crude style, and was often taught by teachers who in this day and age could not pass an examination for license of the lowest grade.

One of the pioneer teachers related to us the circumstances connected with his first application for a license to teach school in Kosciusko county. He said he came here from Ohio when he was quite a young man. He could read, write and cipher fairly well. He came to Leesburg in the fall and, as he failed to secure work, he was advised by a friend to try for a school. He said his education was too limited for that and he doubted if he could secure a license, but his friend said, "You are all right, go ahead." So he finally ventured to go before the school examiners with a good many doubts as to his success. When he went before that august assembly (one of whom could not write his own name legibly, or compute simple interest). They asked him his name, where he came from, how old he was, how many times are sixteen contained in one hundred, how is Indiana bounded, what is

the name of the capital of Indiana, capital of the United States, what is a noun. Here he said, "If they had gone much further on that line they would have had me sure, but fortunately they stopped right there. As he could write a fairly good hand, they gave him a license to teach school in Kosciusko county. He applied for a position as teacher, secured it and taught his first school not many miles from Leesburg. But Mr. Runyan, although handicapped to a certain extent by these meager educational privileges, he added to what education he had a generous supply of energy and determination, which brought him knowledge, success, place and influence with his fellows.

He was married in 1829 to Miss May Erwin and in November, 1831, he concluded to go still farther west, and accordingly in company with his family and that of his father-in-law, Mr. Charles Erwin, placed all of their earthy possessions into wagons drawn by ox teams, he bade farewell to his early associations, boyhood home and life and started for the then Eldorado of the West--Indiana. After twenty-five

History of Leesburg.

79

days of constant toil through an almost unbroken forest and over roads only such in name. At the close of a bleak November day they arrived in Indiana at the then little village, now the beautiful city of Goshen, the county seat of Elkhart county.

The next season, 1832, the Black Hawk War broke out and many of the settlers became alarmed, fearing that the Indians in this vicinity might join the hostile Indians, returned to the older settlements, but some determined to remain and, if need be, fight for the possession of their homes. Mr. Runyan cast his lot with the latter and remained with them. There was no outbreak of the Indians in this section and the settlers remained in quiet possession of their homes.

In 1832 he was elected Justice of the Peace and held the office for four years, when he resigned. During his term of office as Justice of the Peace he performed one of the first, if not the first, marriage ceremony ever performed in Kosciusko county, that of Mr. H. H. Wilkinson, who lived not far from the present site of Milford.

In 1836 he entered into a part-

nership with Mr. Thomas Thomas in the mercantile business and moved to Leesburg that same year, the second year after it was laid out by Lee. Shortly after Mr. Runyan's location here he was appointed deputy sheriff of the county. He remained in Leesburg until 1839. In that year the question of the location of the county seat was to be adjusted by the Legislature. J. B. Chapman, who had acquired considerably property in the vicinity of Warsaw and had some considerably notoriety in the location of county seats, was interested in its being located at the then unimportant village of Warsaw.

In December of that year a petition was sent from Leesburg to the Legislature at Indianapolis by their Representative, the Hon. E. M. Chamberlin, praying for the location of the county seat at Leesburg, also for the clipping of six miles in width from the southern portion of the county, which would put Leesburg in the center of the county. This movement would add one more strong point in favor of the burg and take from Warsaw the only one it had at that time to advance. The petition was sent

History of Leesburg.

80

by mail instead of being sent as it should have been by the hands of two or three or half-a-dozen prominent citizens who would have been interested in securing the county seat for Leesburg. But Leesburg citizens, like Jerusalem of old, did not know the time of her visitation and after sending in her petition paid no further attention to the matter, presuming that their location and the fact that they were then the business center of the county would carry great weight with the Legislature and that the plum would drop into their lap without any further effort.

The Leesburg petition was read and referred to the proper committee and the matter practically ended there as far as the burg was concerned, and through the vigorous and persistent efforts of J. B. Chapman and others the county seat was located at Warsaw and the records were moved from Leesburg to that place in March, 1837. Thus, through over-confidence in the strength of their claim and neglect to put forth a vigorous effort on the part of the citizens, Leesburg lost its opportunity.

After the prize was lost they

awoke to a sense of its value and importance and a strenuous movement was set on foot to effect the clipping of the six miles from the south end of the county and the moving back of the county seat to Leesburg or Oswego, a promising and thrifty village that had been located on the site of the Squawbuck Indian village by Messrs. Barber, Willard, French, Mahaffey and others. Although Warsaw in the first instance would have had but a poor show for the county seat had the citizens of Leesburg backed their petition with a strong personal effort, now that they had it were determined not to lose it without a stubborn fight, and consequently one of the most exciting local contests ever inaugurated in the county commenced between what was known as the Clippers and Anti-Clippers. The Clippers being in favor of clipping six miles from the south of the county, thus throwing Leesburg in the center. The Anti-Clippers proposed to leave the county as it was, leaving Warsaw in the center. All politics was laid aside for the adjustment of this local question.

Mr. Runyan moved to Warsaw

History of Leesburg.

81

and went into business as proprietor of the Losure Hotel and soon became the champion of the Anti-Clipper faction. He was nominated to represent them in Legislature and after a long, stubborn fight he was elected in 1840. This was the first substantial gains by the Antis.

Previous to this Marshall and Kosciusko counties had formed a representative district. During the legislative session of 1840 the State was re-districted and Kosciusko and Whitley counties formed a representative district. Mr. Runyan was re-nominated by the Anti-Clippers and after a bitterly contested campaign was re-elected. This virtually settled the county seat question, although the Antis did not think that all danger of a removal was past until they secured the building of the new court house in Warsaw.

Mr. Runyan was appointed commissioner of what was known as "The Three Per Cent Fund," a fund derived from the sale of public lands and expended in the opening of roads and the erecting of bridges in Kosciusko county. He was also appointed commissioner of the "Surplus

Revenue Fund" in May, 1838, which position he held for two years. He was collector of taxes for the county in 1839 and was county agent from 1843 until 1849, during which time he superintended the erection of the third court house built in Warsaw.

The first court house was built in the winter and spring of 1837 and 1838 on the northeast corner of Center and Indiana streets, a one-story building 20x30 feet; court room was twenty feet square with two jury rooms ten feet square. The first term of court held in that building was convened in March, 1838. This house remained but a short time as during the fall of the same year it was destroyed by fire, which caught in the leaves and red brush which surrounded it. Another court house was built on the same lot and was used until 1848, when the third house was built on the corner of Center and Buffalo streets, facing Buffalo, at a cost of four thousand, two hundred dollars, and, although comparatively inexpensive, it was a fine looking building in comparison with its predecessors.

History of Leesburg.

82

THE FIRST JAIL.

The first jail, as we remember it, was a log buiding two stories high, the lower part of which was laid up double. The only way of getting into the lower story was through a trap door in the upper floor through which prisoners were let down by a ladder, which was withdrawn, the trap door shut and secured and ye prisoner was there provided he did not get out, which they sometimes did. This log jail, if we remember rightly, was built on the northwest corner of the present court house square. This jail was replaced in 1848 by a brick building erected on the southwest of the square. This jail and the court house, built the same year, was built under the supervision of Mr. Runyan as county agent. These primitive buildings were later on replaced by the present magnificent court house and elaborate stone jail, thus finally and for all time settling the dispute between the Clippers and Anti-Clippers, and today every citizen of Kosciusko county is proud of our neat, tidy and rapidly growing county seat and beautiful Wino-na with its world-wide reputation.

Mr. Runyan was engaged in the mercantile business from 1846 to 1853, at which time he became a mail contractor and continued in that business until the building of the P. Ft. W. & C. railroad. During that time he ran a daily stage from Warsaw to Fort Wayne, a tri-weekly from Warsaw to Plymouth and from Warsaw to Goshen; also from Warsaw to Peru and from Warsaw to Rochester. In 1857, when his mail contract expired, he again engaged in business, which he continued until 1861. In that year Warsaw had its first big fire. In this Mr. Runyan last almost all the accumulations of years of toil and found himself in his old age almost penniless. The accumulations of an active life had vanished like the morning dew, but he faced the gloomy prospects with that manly courage and determination that never gives way to despair, although surrounded by adverse circumstances. In 1861 he was appointed postmaster at Warsaw and held that office until 1866 with honor to himself and the satisfaction of the public.

Through all the stirring events of Mr. Runyan's life he sustained

History of Leesburg.

83

a good Christian character and was an active working member of the M. E. church for over fifty years. He was one of God's noblemen, fearlessly honest and upright in all his dealings with his fellowman and earnest in his convictions as to what he thought or right.

The example of Uncle Peter Runyan was one worthy of being followed. He lived to a good old age and went down to his grave honored and respected by all in 1882, having passed his seventieth milestone in his pilgrimage here on earth.

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MICHAEL E. HORAN

Michael E. Horan, one of the early merchants of Leesburg, was born in Ireland in 1806 and came to this country and to Leesburg in 1837. He bought six lots of Levi Lee, commencing at the corner of VanBuren and Pearl streets, and built a store room and residence on the lot now owned by William Ringgenberg.

The store room and residence was used as such until late years when the lot and buildings were purchased by Mr. Ringgenberg, who moved the store room to the back end of the lot for a barn.

The residence portion he sold and it is now at the north end of Pearl street and used as a blacksmith and repair shop. Later Mr. Ringgenberg built a brick residence on the corner formerly occupied by the Horan buildings.

Mr. Horan was a young man of more than ordinary intellectual and business capacity. At home in Ireland the Horans moved in the most intellectual and refined society and his happy genial ways soon won the good will of the early settlers of Leesburg, making his prospects unusually bright for a successful business career, but unfortunately when he had been in Leesburg but about seven years he sickened and died, on June 31, 1844, at the age of 38 years, truly mourned by all who came to know him. His remains are resting in the south side of the Leesburg cemetery.

His wife continued to carry on the business for several years and reared her family here in Leesburg. She was a lady of extraordinary business capacity. They had several children, all of whom partook largely of the intellectual and business faculties of their parents. One of the sons

History of Leesburg.

84

Edward, we believe, along about the year 1849 or '50 thought that a lively, enterprising town like Leesburg ought to have a paper, and, as he was an excellent and swift scribe, he wrote out a paper containing all the local news every two weeks, which was really quite interesting. He called his paper, "The Leesburg Instigator." It was full of wit and humor and was issued for some time until he wrote a local concerning some man who came to the burg, got hog drunk and fell into a cellar. The local presented the whole affair in a ludicrous light, which raised the gentleman's ire. Even if he did come to town and get hog drunk, he didn't want to see it in the paper. He was wrothy and proposed to investigate the quality of the editor's muscle. As a sequence, the "Instigator" stopped.

Mrs. Horan continued the business for several years and finally closed it out and sold the property to Sam Roberts, afterward made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Maria Berst, of Warsaw, where she died Nov. 2, 1878, aged seventy-six years.

Several others were in business in the burg for a short time and

moved away, among them the Starr Brothers, who were Jews, and a man from South Bend.

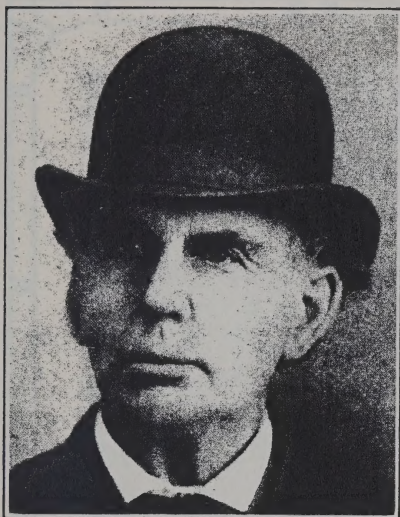
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JONATHAN MOON.

Among the prominent merchants of early date in Leesburg we find the name of Jonathan Moon. Mr. Moon was one of the early settlers in the county. He was born on September 10, 1811, near a little town in Ireland called Coleraine, county of Londonderry, in the north of Ireland. He was of Scotch-Irish origin and possessed to the fullest extent all the thrift, energy and habits of industry for which that race was always noted. He, like them, clung tenaciously to what he thought was right and an undying hatred to what he believed to be wrong.

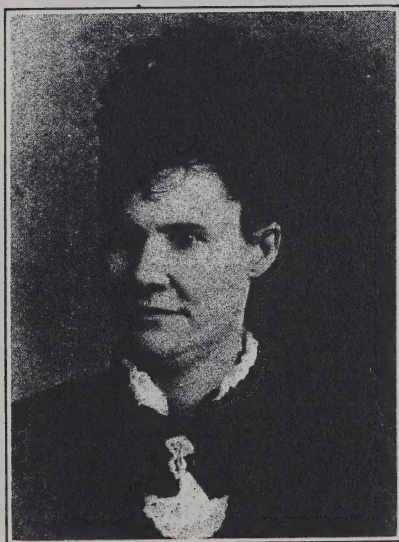
In 1834, when he was about 23 years old, he made up his mind to come to America and cast his fortunes with the citizens of this growing republic, and in company with his cousin Edward Archibald embarked for New York.

One incident connected with his coming to America shows a strong feature in his character, his promptness in carrying out



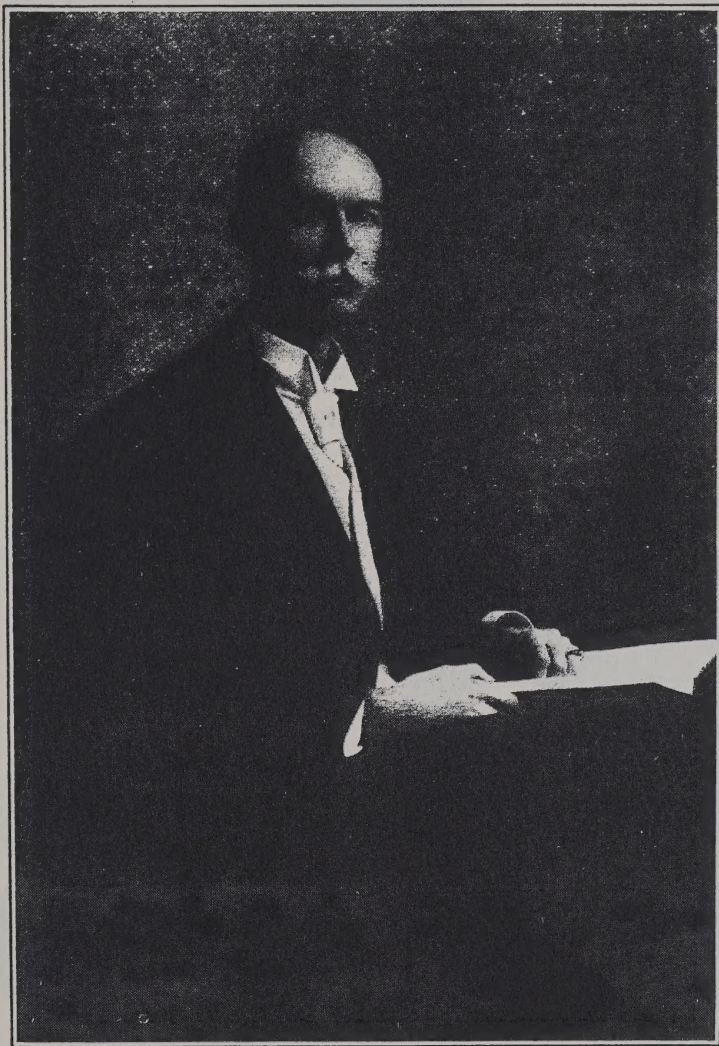
James P. Knight

Born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Settled in Leesburg in 1849. Several years later moved to Bourbon, but returned to Leesburg, and died there March 22, 1895.



Mrs. James P. Knight

Born in Boone County, Kentucky. Died in Cleveland, Ohio, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. B. G. Kimball, November 15, 1911.



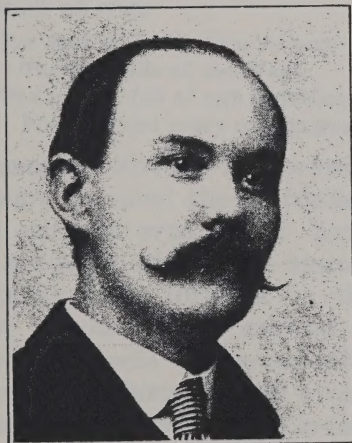
GEORGE W. KNIGHT

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Knight. Born in Leesburg.
Now a resident of New York City.



Mrs. Bertha G. Kimball

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Knight. Born in Leesburg.
Now a resident of Cleveland, Ohio.



J. W. Knight

Son of Mr. and Mrs J. P. Knight.
Born in Leesburg.
Lives in Cleveland, Ohio.



Mrs. Millie P. Levy

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Knight. Born in Leesburg.
Died in Chicago Nov. 16, 1910.

History of Leesburg.

85

his plans when once he had arrived at a decision in the matter. It is said that one day in the year 1834 he and some companions were talking of that beautiful land beyond the sea, where work and money was to be had in abundance, and they became so enthused with the bright prospects that were held up as an inducement to cross the rolling deep and share in the freedom and opulence of that land flowing with milk and honey, lying beyond the setting sun, that one of the number proposed to start at once

For that land of golden visions,
The Eldorado of the West;
The land so full of rich provisions
For each and every coming guest.

Jonathan Moon and his cousin, Edward accepted the proposition and without even going home for a change of clothes started to make their fortunes in the New World. They arrived in New York safe and sound after a voyage of thirty days in a common sailing vessel, being before the introduction of the mammoth palacious steamers of today. Arriving in this country, they went to a little mining town near Mauch Chunk, Pa., where they

worked in the coal mines for some time. Afterward Mr. Moon procured a situation as a clerk in a store in the same village. While occupying this position his talent for business rapidly developed and the foundations were laid for a business life, which was destined in the future to be so successful. While toiling among strangers, his thoughts and affections were with the dear ones in his far-away Ireland home. Every emotion of his heart breathed the sentiment, "Oh Erin Mavourneen, Oh Erin Go Braugh," prompting him to send almost his first earnings to his brother, George Moon, in Ireland, to pay his expenses to this country. He and his cousin worked in the little mining village about three years, during which time they had accumulated several hundred dollars. They loaned this money to a man who beat them out of the whole amount, leaving them about where they were three years previous.

This was in 1837. About this time Moon's brother George having arrived from Ireland, joined them and the two brothers and cousin started for Indiana to commence anew in life. Arriv-

History of Leesburg.

86

ing here, they purchased a tract of land in Clay township and commenced to improve it. After they had been on the farm some little time, Jonathan and his cousin were digging a well and, while Jonathan was in the well, then between ten and twelve feet deep, it caved in on him, burying him about eight feet beneath the debris. His life was saved from the fact that some of the curbing fell so that it kept the earth from smothering him. His cousin dug him out as soon as possible, but he was so severely injured that he could no longer perform labor on the farm and some other mode of making a living had to be adopted.

Accordingly they came to Leesburg in 1839 and went into partnership in the dry goods business in a little building that used to stand just east of the old American Hotel. Here they continued in business from the spring of 1839 to 1843, at which time the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent. Jonathan then built the store room that afterward was used by C. L. Brown as a saloon. (It was burned down in the big fire of 1889, which wiped out all the business

rooms on the south side of Van Buren street except the drug store of J. A. Irvine, which at that time stood where the Stanley & Armstrong garage (now stands) and the Empire Hotel, now the bank building

After this his business career was one of continued success. He probably did the largest and most extensive business of any merchant that was ever in the town. Everybody knew Jonathan Moon; everybody traded with Jonathan Moon, and Jonathan Moon accommodated everybody by buying everything they had to sell, it mattered but little to him what it was.

He was a man full of energy, nerve and push, high-strung, a little inclined to be passionate, but at the same time he was one of the warmest, kindest and truest of friends and very charitable to those he was satisfied were worthy. He was a public-spirited man, every ready to use his influence, spend his time and money to aid any enterprise that was for the public good.

He was married to Miss Rebecca L. Erwin March 21, 1841, To this union were born three daughters (he also adopted the

daughter of his cousin, Edward Moon, who died in New York shortly after coming to this country), and two sons, George and John, both of whom enlisted in the three months' service at the first call and at the expiration of the the months reenlisted for three years, George as a captain in the 74th Ind., and John as a lieutenant in the 152nd Ind. Jonathan Moon died at his home in Leesburg on September 2, 1855, mourned by all who knew him.

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DISASTROUS FIRES

Along in the early forties Leesburg began to shed her log cabin business houses, school house and residences and more pretentious frame buildings were erected. Among the earliest of these were the Blaine and Beck buildings, the Moon and Archibald buildings, the American Tavern and the Perry Tavern, located on the corner now occupied by Gene Harley's residence. This, we believe, was the first tavern in Leesburg and in later days was known as the Shirey corner. It was kept by a man named Perry and it was said that the Perry Tavern was not kept in an order-

ly and neat manner. At one time a citizen of Leesburg was visiting with a friend who was acquainted with Perry and in inquiry about the old friends in the burg he inquired, "What is our old friend Perry doing? "Oh," he said, "He's keeping tavern." "Keeping a pretty good ranch, is he?" "Yes, like hell," was the response, and for a long time it was a trite saying if a man was doing business in a bungling or shiftless manner, he is doing this or that "Like Perry kept tavern."

The first business block built in Leesburg was erected by Robert Blaine, Robert Geddis, Eli Summy and Biggs and, we think the Starr Brothers. The building commenced at the corner of VanBuren and Pearl streets, where the bank now stands and extended to the alley on the east. It was a two-story building and presented a very fine appearance of which Leesburg was very proud and still hopeful she would capture the honor of being the county seat, but later on she was convinced of the truth of what the Irishman said: "Us poor divils are not sure of anything in this world until we get it in our

History of Leesburg.

88

throats and can neither get it up nor down."

The block was divided into a hotel and three business rooms. The first was the Empire Hotel, conducted by Robert Blaine and at that time the largest and best hotel in the county. Next came Robert Geddes' hardware, the next Summy & Biggs dry goods and grocery and Starr Brothers' establishment. This block of business rooms stood until about '57 or '8, when it was burned. The fire broke out in the night in the hotel and, as the wind was blowing strong from the west, the entire block was soon a mass of flames. So fierce and rapid was the progress of the fire that the gallant efforts of the citizens' bucket brigade had no perceptible effect in checking its progress, and but a very small portion of the goods was saved. This was Leesburg's first big fire and it was a stunning blow, from which it was some time in recovering.

In 1858 or '59 Robert Blaine rebuilt his hotel and remained in business until 1861, when it was sold to Hawks Bros., of Goshen. The balance of the block was never rebuilt.

The next fire was in 1863, when the American Hotel was burned. This building was replaced by a two-story frame building with two business rooms below. The upper portion was built by the Masons and used as a lodge room.

On New Year Eve, 1889, Leesburg's second most disastrous fire occurred. Starting, as has been stated, in the saloon of C. L. Brown, every building was destroyed to the corner of VanBuren and Pearl streets. The dawning of the New Year, 1890, broke upon a sad scene of desolation, which brought sorrow and regret that was keenly felt by every citizen of the town. In fact many thought that the fate of the old town was sealed; that she would never recover from the blow. But the dear old town was not dead and those who were mournfully chanting her death song were a little previous in their prognostications of evil. After some consultation among the business men of Leesburg, most of whom had been burned out, namely, Jordan Becknell, William Zimmerman, D. K. Brown, D. H. Lessig; they concluded to erect a brick block, the Masons Oddfellows and Knights of



AFTER THE FIRE OF DECEMBER 31, 1889

The above picture was taken shortly after the fire which started on the eve of the New Year, 1890, in Charles Brown's saloon, where Plummer's furniture store now stands. At the right of the picture in the background can be seen the building which at that time was occupied by J. A. Irvine's drug store. This building was then located on the present site of the S. & A. Garage. At the left of the picture standing on top of an old stove is the late P. W. Brown and his bulldog. At the right in front is James P. Knight.

History of Leesburg.

89

Pythias agreeing to build a second story over Becknell's, Zimmerman's and Garrett's rooms, making two-story buildings of all except those of Brown and Lesig.

The work of clearing the ground of the debris from the fire was commenced immediately and before fall the present fine brick block was erected, and Leesburg Phoenix-like arose from its ashes to renewed life and vigor.

In 1907 Ringgenberg & Berst added to the block one of the largest and finest hardware stores in the county. Above this the K. of P.'s built a beautiful large lodge room with elaborate ante and reception rooms, using the old lodge room for a dining hall.

The next big fire was on Prairie street, when the wagon shops of Charles Knight burned. This included two large two-story buildings and a residence. These buildings were never rebuilt. A small one-story shop was afterward erected on the ground and in this Mr. Knight continued business for a short time, when on account of age and ill health he retired and went to live with

his son in Marion. Mr. Becknell afterward purchased the lots and erected a residence on them, and today no traces are left of what was the first wagon establishment in this part of the county.

Thus old time places and old familiar faces

That once we knew so well
Have passed away; others take their places,

Leaving no mark their former site to tell.

* * *

DAVID ROUDABUSH.

David Roudabush was the first one to open a regular cabinet, furniture and undertaking establishment in Leesburg. Mr. Nichols, who built the house on the corner next to the interurban station, built a small shop on the lot east of his house, in which he did cabinet work for a short time, but never opened a regular business along that line.

Mr. Roudabush was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, March 14, 1815. In the spring of 1830 he came with his father, George Roudabush, to Indiana and settled near the present site of Goshen. His father after a short stay there bought land near Bristol, where he died.

David was quite young when

History of Leesburg.

90

he had to look out for himself and paddle his own boat down the stream of life.

In 1833 he came to Kosciusko county and lived with his brother-in-law, James Bishop, on Big Turkeycreek Prairie and worked at the carpenter trade for several years. He then moved to Leesburg and started in the cabinet business in the building now owned and occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Watkins as a residence. He built a residence on the northwest corner of Prairie and Main streets, now owned by Alfred Goshorn. The original building is still there, but remodelled and additions built to it. He carried on business at this point for about fifteen years, when he sold it to Robert C. Smith and purchased some lots on the west side of Main street and built a grist mill. This he finally sold to Messrs. Hawks and Stickney, taking in trade the Empire Hotel, which he owned at the time of his death.

Mr. Roudabush by thrift and energy accumulated considerable property in Leesburg. After he sold the cabinet business he built and owned the residence now owned by Michael Oswalt. He

also owned a 160-acre farm just southeast of Leesburg. At one time there was a board of trustees for the township. He was elected treasurer of that board and was also elected one of the county commissioners and was always interested in the public affairs of Leesburg. He retired from active business life several years before his death, employing himself principally in looking after the hotel and things on the farm. He was in poor health for a long time, suffering from liver and kidney trouble, of which he finally died at his home in Leesburg March 11, 1889.

* * *

CITIZENS OF LEESBURG WHO BECAME PROMINENT IN COUNTY AND STATE.

Among the men who were citizens of Leesburg and Plain township who have held important offices in the county and state or became prominent business men of the county seat we find Isaac Kirkendall, the first county sheriff; Hon. David Rippey, Representative; Hon. George Moon, County Treasurer and Representative; Peter L. Runyan, Commissioner, Postmaster, etc.; W. C. Graves, County Clerk and

Some of the Old-Timers in Leesburg



Doctor Peck
Jordan Becknell

James Knight
David Rodabush

Amos Garrett
Doctor Burley

History of Leesburg.

91

business man; Edword Moon, County Treasurer; W. D. Wood, County Treasurer; Orrin Watts, County Surveyor; C. C. Beane, Representative; Dr. J. H. Long, Representative; J. E. Stephenson, County Sheriff; H. B. Stanley, County Commissioner; David Roudabush, County Commissioner; Judson Chandler, County Clerk; John C. Beagle, County Auditor; Garrett Irvine, Deputy Auditor; Metcalf and Alfred Beck, prominent business men; R. C. Smith, for years the leading undertaker of the county.

Thus we see that the old town of Leesburg, which was the supply station, the nursing mother to the infant, now the stalwart county of Kosciusko, has also done her full share in furnishing able competent men to fill her offices and promote the business interests of the county seat.

* * *

THE WATTS FAMILY. —

The Watts were originally from Massachusetts, but moved to Vermont and from there the four brothers—J. G. Watts, Gardner Watts, Nelson Watts and E. W. Watts—emigrated to Kosciusko county and Leesburg.

John G. Watts came to Lees-

burg at the close of the thirties, we believe, and for some time was in company with Edward Archibald in the dry goods business. After a time he disposed of his interest in the store and purchased several lots on the north side and east end of Van-Buren street now owned by P. M. Thompson and the Big Four Co. Here he built a residence and a pump shop, a long, narrow building east of his house, and started up in the manufacture of pumps, which assumed quite large proportions in the course of time. For many years the Watts pump was a staple article in and around Leesburg. Everybody used the Watts pump because it was durable and reliable.

J. G. Watts, commonly known as Squire Watts, was one of the most staid, upright men we ever knew. Nobody doubted Squire Watts' word and his decisions as a Justice of the Peace during his many years in office were seldom, if ever, appealed from. He had quite a large family of children, all of whom died previous to his death except three daughters and two sons. He died as he lived and quietly passed away on April 28, 1874.

History of Leesburg.

92

Gardner Watts was, we believe, a carpenter and worked with his brother Nelson in that capacity up to the time of his death, which occurred March 23, 1852. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Farrington. During his 15 years as a citizen of Plain township he accumulated considerable property, which at his death (as they had no family) was left to his wife. She afterward married David Roudabush. She died at the home of her nephew, Orrin Watts, in Goshen January 11, 1897, aged 84 years.

Nelson Watts, some authorities say, was born in Massachusetts, others in Vermont. Be that as it may, it does not alter the fact that he was born on June 3, 1812.

In 1837, when about 25 years old, he and his young wife (nee Miss Ann H. Farrington, a bright, vivacious, merry-hearted little woman as we remember her) concluded to try their fortunes in the then Far West. During their journey, while crossing the lake they unfortunately lost all their household goods and landed in Kosciusko county virtually empty-handed, \$3.37 comprising their

total cash assets. They located in what is now VanBuren township (then Plain) and built a house out of slabs near the present site of Milford. Mr. Watts being a carpenter and handy with tools soon had rustic furniture with which to furnish his slab house. While here their first child, Orrin Watts, was born May 5, 1841. Here, we understand, they lived between five and six years, when they went back to Vermont, but returned to Indiana in 1845 and located in the then promising town of Monoquet. He remained here five years, during which time his wife died—Oct. 11, 1848—and was buried in the Leesburg cemetery.

His second wife was Miss Rebecca A. Smith, of North Manchester. In 1850 they moved to Leesburg. For many years Nelson Watts was the leading building contractor. Many of the buildings which he erected may yet be seen all over this section of the country. Wherever you see a building with a heavy beaded cornice, you see some of the handiwork of Mr. Watts, the pioneer contractor and builder of Leesburg and Plain township.

History of Leesburg.

93

Politically Mr. Watts was a staunch Jacksonian Democrat and an ardent Freemason. In 1860 he built himself a new residence, now owned by Mrs. Lucy Brown, at which place he died June 30, 1873.

Orrin Watts, the son of Nelson Watts, by his first wife, worked with his father at the carpenter's trade until he was about 20 years old. In 1861, when the Civil War broke out and President Lincoln issued his first call for seventy-five thousand volunteers, Orrin, with J. A. Sanderson, Austin Sanderson, Edwin Barlow, Marsh Parkes and many other young men of Plain township, enlisted in Company E, 12th Ind. Regt., April 19, 1861, served one year in the Army of the Potomac and received an honorable discharge at Washington May 7, 1862. On January 29, 1863, Orrin was married to Miss Sarah E. Raff and lived in Leesburg until he was elected County Surveyor, when he moved to Warsaw. At the expiration of his term of office he moved to Topeka, Kansas, where he lived for some time, returning to Leesburg toward the close of the sixties. Oct. 20, 1872,, he moved

to Goshen and worked at the cabinet trade until 1888, at which time he accepted the position of manager of the Butler Manufacturing Co., at Butler, which position he held for four years. In 1892 he returned to Goshen and the same year was elected City Treasurer of Goshen. He was reelected to the same office in 1904, 1905 and 1909, making a continuous official service of eleven years and four months. The last term for which he was elected expires January, 1, 1914.

Orville Watts, the only survivor of Nelson Watts' second marriage, is now living in North Manchester, where he has occupied the position of janitor of the high school of that city for several years.

E. W. Watts, the fourth one of the Watts brothers, was here but two or three years, dying Oct. 13, 1844.

Mrs. Ormsby, nee Watts, died at her home on Prairie street, just east of Mrs. Gearhart's residence. For years Mrs. Ormsby and after her death Mrs. Cook owned all the lots on the north side of VanBuren street from Calvin Baugher's place east to the J. C. Hill residence. Several years ago Mrs. Cook sold her property in Leesburg and went west to live with her son, closing the history of the Watts family as far as it was connected with that of Leesburg.

History of Leesburg.

94

HON. GEORGE MOON.

George Moon, one of the early settlers of Leesburg, was born in Colrairie, County Derry, Ireland, July 11, 1816. He was of Scotch-Irish origin and partook of the genial whole-heartedness of the Irishman and the decided, unwavering character of the Scotchman. His ideas of what was right and wrong were clear and decisive. When once he marked out the line of duty, which he thought he ought to follow in regard to any subject, moral, religious or political, he pursued it regardless of the multitude and its opposers.

His parents were old school Presbyterians and in that religion he was brought up. His parents being in comfortable circumstances he received the benefits of a good common school education before he reached the age of twenty. As he approached man's estate he, like all other young men, began to lay plans for the future, on whose rose-tinted sky fancy began to paint many bright visions of future happiness, comfort, honor and wealth, to be achieved by perseverance and his own strong right hand. He had heard and read

many grand and glowing descriptions of the Land of Flowers, the Land of Freedom, that Land so full of great and grand opportunities, held out to those who would brave the tempests of the ocean and the many difficulties and troubles which fell to the lot of the self-made exile.

Two years had now elapsed since his brother Jonathan Moon and his cousin Edward Archibald had gone to that Land and their glowing descriptions of that country, which is destined to be the grandest country on earth, fired his young heart and he became restless and uneasy. He wanted to come. In 1836, when he was but twenty years, the opportunity was offered by which he might accomplish the earnest desire of his heart, to see fair Columbia, become one of her citizens and push with them toward the zenith of her greatness and glory. Yet it was not without certain feelings of sadness that he bade farewell to home with all its endearing allurements and to the romantic shores of his native isle.

No doubt as he stood on the deck of the outward-bound ship, with her white sails flapping o'er

History of Leesburg.

95

him, its pennant streaming back to the fast receding shore, he could have expressed his feelings in the language of the Poet:

“As slow our ship, her foaming track
Against the wind was clearing,
Her trembling pennant still looked
back
To the dear old Isle 'twas leaving.

So loath we part from all we love,
From all the links that bind us,
To turn our heart as on we roam,
To those we left behind us.”

On arriving in this country he joined his brother Jonathan Moon and Edward Archibald at a place near Maunch Chunk, Pa. Here he remained one year, when in company with his brother and cousin, he took up his march westward, arriving in Leesburg April 1, 1837. Leesburg was then about two years old, nestling between the beautiful prairies on either hand, Where late the savage had in ambush lay,
Or roamed the uncultured prairie for his prey.

Her citizens were young, spirited and ambitious, and filled with bright anticipations of Leesburg's future pomp and greatness, which it is said, inspired one of its citizens poetically inclined to write to her beginning with—

“Immortal Leesburg! Earth's metropolis,
Before whose luster cities fade to naught.”

But through negligence and overconfidence, they allowed her greatness to fall into other hands.

Mr. Moon, for a short after his arrival in Leesburg, was employed by Chas. Erwin and J. B. Chapman on their farms. He soon, however, accepted a position as clerk with Metcalf Beck, who was at that time the leading merchant. He remained in Beck's employ about three years. In 1840 he entered into partnership with George Thralls in the grocery business in Warsaw. The partnership lasted three years, the firm doing a good business. In 1844 he formed a partnership with William Cosgrove, also of Warsaw. This partnership continued until 1850. They did a very large business extending all over the county. The Moon & Cosgrove establishment was considered at that time the emporium for everything in the line of general merchandise.

Mr. Moon was then in his 34th year and as yet he had taken no part in politics except to vote his sentiments at the polls. But a

History of Leesburg.

96

young man, full of the vigor of youth, of strong opinions, sound judgment and clear foresight, was not long to remain in the background. When he came to this country, unlike the majority of his countrymen, he affiliated with the Whig party, and after the reorganization of the Republican party, with them.

In 1852 his party friends, after a good deal of persuasion, prevailed upon him to accept the nomination for Treasurer of Kosciusko county, to which office he was elected and at the expiration of that term was reelected in 1854. In 1856, against his expressed wish, he was nominated and elected to represent his county in the state Legislature. While in the Legislature he was on the Committee of Ways and Means. Here his good sense, sound judgment and financial knowledge of the needs of the state wielded an influence in the financial legislation of the state, which was of incalculable benefit to the taxpayers, and was acknowledged and appreciated by them. In 1860 he had the honor of being a delegate from Indiana to the national Republican convention in Chicago, at which the honored

and revered martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, was nominated. Mr. Moon was a Lincoln man first, last and all the time, and undoubtedly did more than any other one man to bring the Indiana delegation to an undivided support of Mr. Lincoln. In 1869 he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the 10th collecting district. In 1894 he was elected mayor of the city of Warsaw by a large majority and served in that office the full term retiring Sept. 3, 1898. In this, as in other positions he was called upon by his fellow citizens to fill, he invariably proved himself to be a gentleman of excellent ability and unswerving integrity. He was a clear headed, quick, honest business man. In his last official capacity as mayor, although the burden of 82 years was upon him, he exhibited more tact, fire and vim than many who were twenty years his junior. Like all of his race he was a man of decided convictions, a hater of sham and deceit, firm in his own views, yet ever ready to concede the sincerity of those who differed with him.

He died at his home in War-

saw April 15, 1902, at the age of 86 years, mourned by a host of friends who loved and respected him for his many noble and manly qualities.

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LEESBURG M. E.

CHURCH CIRCUIT.

The first religious meeting held in Plain township of which we have any knowledge was conducted by Rev. R. R. Robinson, a local Methodist preacher, at the home of Charles Erwin in 1834.

The Methodist church was the pioneer church. Hardly had the pioneer finished the erection of his cabin home before the Methodist preacher was there asking for the privilege of holding divine services in the home. The Methodist preacher of that day was a character really unique. He was the Daniel Boone of the church, always the vanguard of real evangelistic work. His power of endurance seemed almost superhuman. He did not seem to require food or rest like other men, no day's journey seemed long enough to tire him, no fare was poor enough to starve him, no road was too blind or too rough for him to travel. Roads

and paths he almost regarded as useless luxuries. He was directed by what seemed to be a divine intuition, which enabled him to strike a bee line through the trackless forest to any point he wished to reach. If his horse could not carry him he lead the horse, if the horse could not follow he left him and pushed on on foot. When the shades of night gathered around him, if no cabin was in sight, he laid down in the forest or prairie, perfectly at home. He was never lost and it seemed to be his especial delight to hunt for the cabin of the latest settler. They were God-fearing men, who denounced evil wherever they found it without regard to the fear or favor of man.

They were not wire-pullers, looking for a soft snap, a pleasant location and a big salary, but counted the salvation of souls to be above all other things, even life itself. It is told of James B. Finley that while riding one of his circuits he came to a stopping place where the host was a member of the Methodist church. When it was time to retire for the night he took him to a room in which was a ten-gallon

History of Leesburg.

keg of whiskey, which the good brother had procured to give a treat to his hands at a barn raising. When Mr. Finley saw the whiskey keg he turned to the host and said "Brother B, do you know that God has pronounced a curse upon the man who putteth a bottle to his neighbor's lips?" "There is no law," said the host angrily, "against using whiskey and I will do as I please." "Very well," said Finley, "It is a poor rule that will not work both ways and, if you do as you please, I will do as I please. Take that whiskey out of this room, or I will leave this house immediately. I would rather lie out in the woods than sleep in a Methodist home with a ten-gallon keg of whiskey for a room mate." The host refused to move the whiskey and Finley, as good as his word, got out his horse and rode out into the darkness and night in quest of another lodging place, rather than compromise his God, his church and his own conscience by countenancing the use of intoxicants so much as to sleep in the same room with a keg of whiskey. We have some such dauntless leaders in the M. E. church today and we are glad

to know that they are on the increase and that Methodism will take a place in the front rank of those in opposition to the liquor curse as they did to that of human slavery.

In 1810 there were but three circuits and four Methodist preachers in the state and a membership of seven hundred and sixty. This little band was the pioneers of what is today a mighty host. Indiana with its four large conferences, its almost countless beautiful churches and literary institutions, is, we might say, a Methodist state. In 1844 the Northern Indiana Conference, to which Leesburg belongs, was organized and held its first session at Fort Wayne, Bishop Waugh presiding. Prior to this time this circuit was called a mission.

Up to 1844 the preachers were R. R. Robinson. In 1834 he was the pioneer preacher of Plain township and probably of the county. He was at that time a resident of Goshen. The next was Aaron Wood in 1835. He joined the Northern Indiana Conference in 1844 and was appointed agent for the Asbury University. After a long, faith-

History of Leesburg.

99

ful service he was taken to his reward in 1887. The next was William M. Fraley in 1837. During his ministration the first M. E. church in Plain township was organized at the home of Chas. Erwin and consisted of six members namely Charles Erwin and wife, John Shelly and wife and Jacob Reynolds and wife. We are sorry we could obtain no record of the Rev. Fraley after leaving Leesburg. J. Hurlbut came in 1837. During this year the little church of half a dozen members more than trebled its membership.

William Owen came next in 1838. The Leesburg church was considerably increased during his pastorate. During this year, 1838, the first Methodist church was built in Leesburg under his direction on the lot now occupied by W. H. Stanley's residence. The next to come to Leesburg was William Scroit. He remained two years, 1839 and '40. The next was Jacob Young in 1841. He was followed by O. V. Leamon, who was here for two years, 1842 and '43. All these men were known as missionaries and Leesburg was a missionary field, taking in Syracuse, North

Webster, Milford and Galveston (now Clunette) and as such they labored.

None of the missionary preachers, who first preached in Leesburg joined the Northern Indiana Conference except A. Wood and O. V. Leamon. Mr. Wood came from the Ohio Conference, which he joined the 1822 and afterward joined the Indiana Conference (in 1834) which was set off from the Illinois Conference in 1832. O. V. Leamon joined the Indiana Conference in 1841. At the organization of the Northern Indiana Conference in 1844 he became a member of it. He held the position of presiding elder of the Peru district for three years, 1847, '48 and '49. He also held the eldership in the Richmond district in 1864 and '65. He was a large, powerful man whose voice, it is said, could be heard for a mile when engaged in preaching. He was a representative pioneer missionary preacher who never feared man or devil when in the prosecution of his divine calling. While in Leesburg he lived in a little log house, which stood at the southwest corner of the lot now occupied by Alfred Goshorn's residence.

History of Leesburg.

100

He lived and labored long in the vineyard of the Master, dying like a valiant soldier at his post in 1889.

George Guild was pastor on this charge in 1844. During his pastorage the first M. E. parsonage was built on the lot now owned by William Callison. The trustees, Thomas Harper, William Diviney and John Hacker, were looking for a good site on which to build. Henry Berst then owned the lot just east of J. W. Armstrong's residence. Thinking it would be handy to the church he offered to make a present of it to the church, but when the matter was brought before the church they decided that it was too close to the church and a lot was purchased of Metcalf Beck, on Prairie street, for \$20.

George Guild joined the Indiana Conference in 1843, transferred to the Northern Indiana Conference in 1852, died 1886.

Warren Griffith was on the Leesburg charge one year, 1845, joined Conference in 1844, died in 1851. John R. Davis was on this charge two years, '46 and '47, joined the Conference in 1845, died in 1877. Michael Johnston was on Leesburg charge one

year, 1848. He entered the Conference 1844, died in 1883. Conrad S. Burgner was on the charge one year, 1849, entered Conference same year, died in 1868. During his pastorate the second M. E. church was built on the site of the first building. The old building, built by the Rev. Owen in 1838, was sold by the trustees, Ichabod Colyer, Henry Berst and Thomas Harper to Jonathan Moon for a residence. (The building is still in good repair). The new building was built at a cost of \$2,000. The contract was let to Nelson Watts, who was at that time the leading contractor. Mr. Beck headed the subscription list with \$100, besides paying liberally on the bell, assisted personally in adjusting it and was the first one to ring it. (The same bell is now in the M. E. church belfry and, if we are not mistaken, Mr. Beck's name is on it). F. A. Sale was on the charge during the years 1850 and '51. He joined the Conference in 1849, died in 1879. D. F. Strite was on the Leesburg charge three years, 1852, '53 and '54. The second he was assisted by B. F. Armstrong. He was afterward presiding elder of the Fort

History of Leesburg.

101

Wayne district, in 1855 and '56. E. Hall was on Leesburg circuit in 1855-6. During his pastorate the charge had two interesting revivals, one at Galveston and one at Berst's school house. He was suspended for cause one year, joined the Conference in 1847, died in 1880. Isaac Dean was here one year, 1857, joined the Conference in 1849, died in 1868. Rev. Donahoe came to this charge as a supply in 1858. He did not belong to the Conference. A. G. McCarter and L. S. Fouts were on the charge in the year 1859. McCarter was admitted to Conference in 1852; Fouts in 1859, discontinued in 1861. O. P. Boyden was on the Leesburg charge in 1860; remained but one year, joined the Conference in 1843, died in 1865.

Rev. J. W. Bradshaw was the next to come to Leesburg charge. He remained two years, 1861 and '62, and was assisted by J. R. Oden. Bradshaw was admitted to Conference in 1841, died 1880. Oden entered Conference in 1862, was transferred to Michigan in 1873.

In 1863 Leesburg charge was supplied by Rev. William Graham. He came here from Ohio,

was admitted to Conference there in 1848. Brother Graham was an old time Methodist preacher, who without note or commentary, preached the Gospel, inspired by unswerving faith in it and a genuine love for his fellowman. He was loved and respected all over the entire charge. A unanimous request for his return was sent to Conference, which on account of his large family, was refused. He died at his home near Bourbon in 1892. E. M. Baker was on the Leesburg circuit in 1864 and '65. There was quite a revival during his pastorate. He joined the Conference in 1858; was in a superannuate relation to the church for several years prior to his death, which occurred in Warsaw.

E. P. Church was on this charge one year, 1866. He joined the Conference in 1855. J. D. Medskee came in 1867. W. Miller in 1868 and '69. He joined the Conference in 1849. J. S. Sellers was here in 1870 and '71. He withdrew from the M. E. Conference to avoid trial and joined the Protestant Methodist church, joined the M. E. Indiana Conference 1841.

History of Leesburg.

102

J. J. Cooper was on the Leesburg circuit three years, 1872, '73 and '74. He joined the Indiana Conference in 1838. He was presiding elder of the Peru district from 1858 to '61. He was one of the most thoroughgoing Methodist preachers in the Northern Indiana Conference. He was always about his Master's business. No storm was so severe as to keep him from his appointment. An incident which came under our personal observation shows his self-sacrificing devotion to his work. At that time there was an appointment at what was then known as Lickskillet, some six or eight miles northwest from Leesburg. One Sabbath morning, when the mercury was hovering near the zero point and a regular blizzard blowing from the northwest, we had an errand to the parsonage. We were surprised to see the preacher's rig standing in front of the house. Upon going in we found Brother Cooper putting on his wraps. "Why," we said, "Brother, where are you going?" "To Lickskillet," he replied. "Why surely," we said, "you are not going to drive out there in this terrible storm. There'll not be

a soul there." "Yes there will, Brother Armstrong, J. J. Cooper will be there." And he was. We inquired afterward how many came out. "Oh," he said, "four or five, but I preached to them and then held a class meeting. We had a glorious meeting if it did storm. It paid, Brother." And we believe it did. He loved his church, he loved his work, and died in the harness in 1888. He joined the Indiana Conference in 1838.

James Johnston was on the charge for three years, 1875, '76 and '77. Later on he superannuated and went into business in Pierceton. Died at his home in that place Dec. 22, 1877. The remains were interred in Leesburg cemetery. N. D. Shakelford was on this charge in 1878, '79 and '80. He joined the Indiana Conference in 1841, was transferred to Illinois in 1872, returned to Indiana in 1876. During the winter of his second year one of the most powerful revivals in the history of Leesburg church took place under the direction of a young evangelist, Madison Swadner. During the meetings the old church was crowded to its fullest capacity.

History of Leesburg.

103

All the business houses were closed and the old town was stirred from center to circumference as it never was before, resulting in over one hundred conversions, mostly from the young and middle-aged of the town and vicinity. He was admitted to the Northern Indiana Conference in the spring of 1880 and was sent to Palestine circuit, but he forged ahead rapidly and has since filled a number of prominent pulpits and positions in the M. E. church,

G. B. Work was on the circuit two years, 1881 and '82. He joined the Northern Indiana Conference in 1872. H. M. Mott was here three years, 1883, '84 and '85. He was admitted to the Conference in 1872. A. J. Carey was on this circuit in 1886 and '87. During his pastorate here the second parsonage was built, now owned by Willison Callison. The contract for building was let by the trustees Amos Garrett, Samuel Linam and William Archibald, to Jordan Becknell. He took the old parsonage in part pay and moved it to a lot on the north side of VanBuren street, now the residence of Mrs. Cynthia Thomas. He joined the

Northern Indiana Conference in 1871. He held a superannuate relation to the church for several years and at present is a citizen of Warsaw. J. A. Beatty came in 1888 and remained but one year. He was a bright, intelligent young man and, although an earnest request was sent to Conference for his return, he was removed; too able a minister to be kept at Leesburg. He, too, since has been promoted rapidly, has filled many prominent pulpits and is now the presiding elder or president of the Fort Wayne district. He was admitted to Conference in 1885.

In 1889 F. M. Stone, a bright, intelligent, thorough-going young man, was on the Leesburg charge and, notwithstanding an urgent request for his return, was removed; too valuable to Conference, we presume, to have his talent hidden on a small charge. He, too, has been very successful and promoted rapidly, filling since he left Leesburg quite a number of prominent pulpits in the Conference besides other responsible positions. During his pastorate the neat, commodious M. E. church was built in Clu-nette.

History of Leesburg.

104

A. Cone was sent to the Leesburg in 1890 and was returned in 1891. He was a gentlemen of mild, unobtrusive manner, a good sermonizer and a fine spiritual leader.

M. R. Pierce was in charge on Leesburg circuit five years, 1892-'96. In the second or third year year, we're not sure which, there was quite a revival in which the pastor was assisted by local preacher F. G. Fried, at that time a resident of Corunna. He afterward moved to Leesburg and engaged in the dry goods business. Several revivals were held at other points on the charge during his pastorate.

For quite a number of years the proposition to build a new church at Leesburg had been talked of, but was carried no further. In 1877, if we recollect rightly, the question was up before the church and after a long discussion it was decided not to build a new church, but to repair the old one. Accordingly a new sill was put in on the south side, a cross sill through the middle, the floor, which had sunk down in the middle, was raised up, what was left of the old plaster was taken off and the whole re-plas-

tered and the walls papered. New weight windows in place of the narrow light windows were put in and the seats rearranged and painted and a couple of coats paint put on the outside at a cost of about \$500.00. The improvements gave the old building quite a modern appearance, but still did not entirely quiet the demand for a new building, which it seemed like Banquo's ghost, would not be laid, and when it became evident that the building would have to have a new roof, repainted and repapered, the the proposition to build instead of making further repairs was sprung. After many meetings of the trustees and animated discussions pro and con it was decided to build a new church to cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000.00. But although the majority of the board of trustees had voted to build, a great many in and out of the church thought it was impossible to build at that time and two of the trustees firmly impressed with that idea resigned. At a meeting of the trustees it was agreed that no contract should be let until \$2,000.00 in good subscriptions had been obtained. Accordingly

History of Leesburg.

105

Brother F. G. Fried got out two or three subscription lists, heading one of them with a liberal amount. About five hundred dollars were obtained and then the movement seemed to come to a standstill. Subscriptions were small, few and far between and the trustees were feeling blue and the "I told you so" fellows did not help the matter. But inspired by the persistent work and faith of pastor M. R. Pierce in the ultimate success of the movement, the trustees kept working away and God blessed their efforts, the help coming at the critical point, and as it usually does, from an unexpected source. Hamilton Rankin (not a member of any church, but his wife was) was ailing at that time so that he could not leave his home. Brother Pierce called to see him almost every day. One day while he was at his home Mr. Rankin inquired how they were getting along with the new church project. Brother Pierce told him "Very slowly, indeed." "Well" said he, "I have been thinking the matter over and I think you ought to have a new church and I have concluded to subscribe \$400.00 and wife will give you

\$100.00." Brother Pierce, believing in striking while the iron was hot, took out his subscription paper and the amount was signed then and there. This placed the amount subscribed at \$1,220, over one-half the amount wanted before contracting.

The spell was broken and ultimate success was assured. Three \$100 subscriptions, \$75, \$50, \$25 and on down to \$1.00 subscriptions came in from all directions, from Warsaw, Milford, Clunette and the country round about. The movement was on the up-grade and, as is usually the case, everybody seemed anxious to help boost.

The following persons paid \$100 and up: Hamilton Rankin and wife \$500.00, F. G. Fried and wife \$350.00, Samuel Linam and wife \$350.00, Ladies Aid Society \$400.00, J. W. Armstrong \$150.00, Mary A. Anglin \$100.00, Mrs. H. M. Anglin \$100.00, Robert Wallace \$100.00, M. E. Sunday school \$100.00. We are sorry we have not the name of the president and other officers of the Aid Society, or what was then called the Willing Workers. The book only says "Received of the President of the Willing Workers

History of Leesburg.

106

Society \$400.00." They were certainly enthusiastic Willing Workers to raise that amount and pay it inside of the year. The Ladies Aid Society has always been and now is the financial backbone of the Leesburg M. E. church. All honor to whom honor is due.

On the third day of September, 1895, the contract for the new church was let to Jordan Becknell and Irvin J. Becknell for \$2,735.00, the building to be finished on or before December 1, 1895, H. B. Stanley as referee.

The new church was dedicated Dec. 8, 1895. The total amount paid out for building and furnishing was \$3,995.37. \$570.00 of this was raised on the day of dedication. Dr. Moore, of Cincinnati, delivered the dedicatory sermon. He was then editor of Northwestern Christian Advocate and afterward chosen one of the bishops of the M. E. church.

Bishop Moore was also an enthusiastic old soldier, having served from '61 to '65 in the Civil War. He was a good story teller and had a splendid faculty of bringing out the pathetic as well

as the humorous in relating incidents of that great conflict. At one time the Bishop was addressing an Epworth League convention in the West. In the course of his talk he related an incident that occurred after one of the battles, in which he extracted a Minie ball from a wounded soldier. The incident was related in a very touching, sympathetic manner that held the large audience. As he closed the relation of the story he said "That occurred forty-five years ago and I have never seen that wounded soldier since, but I have that Minie ball yet." At this point an old man in the rear of the audience arose and came slowly down the aisle.

Approaching the Bishop, he said "Bishop, I am the man you took that bullet from."

In an instant they were clasped in each others arms and, with tears streaming down their cheeks as they stood before that now thoroughly interested audience, they renewed their old-time friendship. Thus it is ever the man who is true to his Maker will be true to his family, loyal to his country and kind to his fellowman.

History of Leesburg.

107

C. E. Parsons came to Leesburg charge from New Paris in 1897. A grand revival had followed the dedication of the new church and the church was spiritually alive. We well recollect the remarks that Brother Parsons made at the close of the first prayer meeting held after he came. "Why," said he, "Brother, there is a strong revival spirit here right now," and he felt it because he himself was a whole-hearted Christian, an all-around pastor, neglecting no part of his work, a genuine Shepherd who looked carefully, especially after the spiritual welfare of his people. He had no axe to grind, he was loved and respected by all. It was the earnest, unanimous desire of the members that he be returned, but again the Conference did not see fit to do so. He remained but one year.

J. D. Belt was the next one on the charge and remained two years, 1898 and '99. We understand that he was at one time in the ministry in east Tennessee and while there married his wife, who was a most estimable Christian lady, but unfortunately when they came to Leesburg

was far gone in consumption, of which she died at her home in Leesburg November 4, 1899.

As the time for her departure drew near and she was liable to pass away at any time, Brother Belt felt sometimes as though he ought not to leave her even to fill his regular appointments. But she would say, "No, you go to your appointment, God will be with me, and should I be called in your absence you know we will meet in Heaven," and filled with that spirit of trust and resignation she fell asleep in Jesus. During his ministry there were two quite interesting revivals. From Leesburg he went to Etna Green. At the close of that year, on account of ill health, he superannuated and returned to Leesburg, purchased a home and remained here until his death, which occurred at his home January 13, 1909. His remains were interred beside those of his wife in Leesburg cemetery.

J. T. Fetto came to this work in 1900, was returned in 1901, doing a very satisfactory work while on the charge. He was followed by W. F. Dingle. He remained but one year, 1902. The next was M. F. Stright in

History of Leesburg.

108

1903, a thorough-going man who did as good work as could be expected of a one year man. One year hardly gives a minister time to get thoroughly acquainted with his people and too long a time is as bad—they are apt to get ratty. In our opinion in most cases the three-year limit was the better for pastor and people.

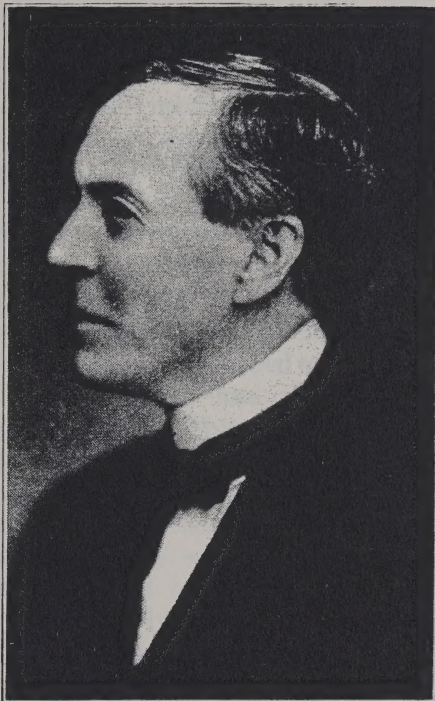
In 1904 and '05 came C. W. Lynch, an old Methodist war horse. When he came to the Leesburg charge he had been in active service between forty-eight and forty-nine years. He had been presiding elder and the church, recognizing his work and worth, conferred many honors upon him. He was a thoroughly devoted Christian gentlemen, whose private conversation with one always lead one's thoughts upward from terrestrial to celestial things, always edifying. If the clouds seemed to be gathering thick around one and your faith weakening, a half hour's conversation with good old Brother Lynch scattered the clouds from your sky, strengthened your faith and sent you on your way rejoicing. At least we have found it so. From time to time one after another the eight

or nine appointments on Leesburg circuit had been dropped and when Mr. Lynch came there were but three appointments—Leesburg, Bone Prairie and Clunette. During his second year Leesburg was made a station. Bone Prairie class was transferred to Leesburg and Clunette appointment was supplied by Rev. Wood of Warsaw. Mr. Lynch did a good work in his two year's service in Leesburg. The good Brother had a strong desire to round out the full half century in the ministry, but at the close of the second year, on account of declining health and old age it was thought best for him to retire from the work, which he did and located in Warsaw. From there in a few years he was called home by the God he served so long and so well. His funeral, held in the M. E. church at Warsaw, was attended by the superintendent of the Goshen district and all the ministers of the district. Many interesting incidents in the life and work of Brother Lynch were related by the older ministers of the district. It was a peculiarly solemn and interesting farewell to a beloved veteran of the Cross.

J. Wesley Bowen, Ph. B.

Rev. Bowen is the present pastor of the Leesburg M. E. Church, having been appointed April 6, 1914. He was born in Delaware county, Indiana, and was educated in the common schools and in the old Whitewater Academy, Wayne county, Ind. He taught his first school near Muncie when he was 17 years of age, and for several years previous to entering the ministry he taught in Wayne county. Rev. Bowen was admitted to North Indiana Conference of the M. E. Church at Muncie in 1882 and has been in the active work for 33 years. His ministry has always been accompanied by success.

Leesburg M. E. Church and Parsonage



History of Leesburg.

109

His mortal remains were laid away in Oakwood cemetery, while his spirit went back to the God who gave it.

The next to come to Leesburg was J. Greenwalt, who came in 1906. He was a young man of ability and, we believe, of good intentions to carry on a good work, but to a certain extent lacked persistancy in carrying them out (but failure or a partial failure is not always by any means the fault of the minister, but many times might be laid to a lack of active support on the part of the church and undue criticism). He remained but one year. During that year the parsonage was sold to Mr. William Callison and the contract for the building of a parsonage on the east side of the church was let to Mr. Clark Powell. The building was completed for occupancy that year. C. H. Murray, who followed Greenwalt, was in charge of Leesburg station three years, 1907, '08 and '09. He joined the Northern Indiana Conference in 1882, was supply at Geneva one year and in the ministry thirty years. During his pastorate in Leesburg quite interesting and successful pro-

tracted meetings were held. In 1907 he was assisted by the Rev. Chas. Woodruff, of North Webster. In 1908 the Rev. Powers, of University Park, Nebraska, was assistant. In 1909 his assistant was the Rev. McMahon, of Elkhart, Ind., and quite a number were added to the church. In 1910 he had charge of the church at Whitely, Muncie, Ind. At the close of that conference year he retired from the Conference and returned to his home in Leesburg, where he is at present engaged in real estate agency. During his three years improvements were made on the parsonage, a platform, balustrade and cement steps were put at the east entrance to the church and a gasoline lighting system. These improvements were made at a cost of four hundred and sixty dollars. The Murray family is highly esteemed by the citizens of Leesburg.

In 1910 J. C. Graham came to Leesburg station. The grandson of the Rev. William Graham. He was admitted to the Northern Indiana Conference in 1904. Since his admission to the Conference he has been the pastor in charge at the following places:

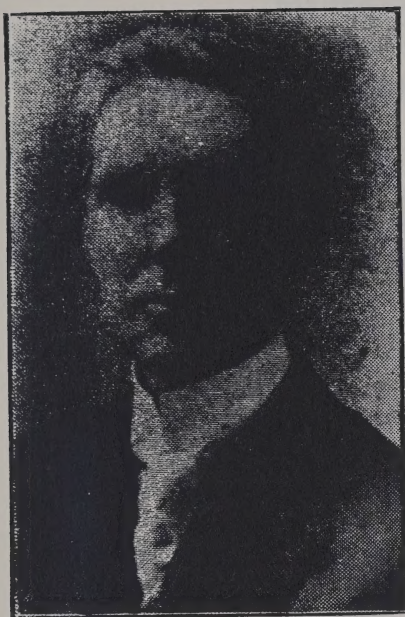
History of Leesburg.

110

In 1904 and '05 he was at Park Place Church at Anderson; in 1906 and '07 at Whitely, Muncie, and Daleville, Ind.; in 1909 he had charge of Fifth Street Church at Richmond, Ind.; in 1913 was appointed by the superintendent of this district supply at Clunette, Ind., and is the present time in charge at Leesburg. During his four years a new entrance to the church has been built, the church repainted, the inside walls of the church kalso-mined, the basement walls painted and electric lights put in the basement besides over three hundred dollars' worth of improvements in the parsonage, amounting in all to over six hundred dollars. Protracted meetings held each year, at two of which the pastor was assisted by the Rev. J. B. Cook, of Denver, Ind. in 1911, and the Rev. S. Burt Stookey, of Churubusco, Ind., in 1913. Quite a number have been received into the church by letter and conversion.

From 1834, including 1913, there have been fifty different pastors. The amount paid them in salaries during that time was forty-seven thousand, four hundred dollars. Benevo-

lences five thousand, nine hundred twenty-five dollars; incidental expenses seven thousand, nine hundred; building and improvements twelve thousand, one hundred, seventy-eight; total expenses for the 79 years, seventy-three thousand, four hundred, three dollars, a yearly average of nine hundred, twenty-nine dollars and fifteen cents. Having been intimately connected officially and otherwise with the Leesburg M. E. church for more than fifty years and from information received from such pioneers of the church as Henry Berst, Ichabad Colyer, Thomas Harper and others, we believe these averages are substantially correct. If anything they may come below the actual figures. The receipts and expenses of the Sunday school, which are not included, would amount to several thousands more.



C. H. Murray

Was born in Randolph County, Ind., May 29, 1855, and was educated in the Huntington High School and the Roanoke Clasical Seminary. He taught school for twelve years, studied law two years, then entered the Methodist ministry. After serving that church for thirty years he settled in Leesburg.



The Murray Residence

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

ORIGIN.

Those who at the present time are known as Christians came out from the people known as Methodists about the year 1803.

Under the preaching of John Wesley in the Colonies many converts were made and numerous classes were formed by these converts all over the Colonies, which were known as Methodists and were considered a branch of the Church of England, or the Episcopal Church, and for the administration of the church ordinances were dependent upon that church, Mr. Wesley himself being a member of the Episcopal Church and, in fact, never withdrew from it.

The success of the Revolution broke up the relations with old England, also annulled the dependence of the Colonial Methodists upon the mother church. Under these circumstances it became necessary that a new or independent form of church government should be arranged and adopted. When this question was brought up it was found that there was a decided difference of opinion as to what the form of government should be. Some,

who had not been entirely weaned from their love of the mother country and her ways, stood up strongly for an episcopal form of government, while others, filled with the spirit of independence, did not wish to resume the ecclesiastical despotism and submit to a lordly power over the church. They pleaded earnestly for a congregational form of government, the one side being championed by Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke and others, the other by James O. Kelly, of North Carolina, and many other preachers of that state and Virginia. Those who were pleading for a congregational system, feeling that there was no hope of winning their brethren to their views, quietly withdrew from the church they loved so well.

The final separation took place in a town in North Carolina called Manakin. The new organization at first took the name of Republican Methodists, but at a subsequent meeting they adopted the name of Christians, acknowledging no head over the church but Christ and no creed nor discipline but the Bible.

The first Christian Conference

History of Leesburg.

112

in this section was held on the banks of Eel River, August 26, 1844. At that time what is now known as the Eel River Conference was organized, embracing Steuben, DeKalb, Allen, Wells, Adams, Huntington, Whitley, Noble, Lagrange, Elkhart, Kosciusko and Wabash counties. The proceedings of that Conference were placed on record at Albion October 20, 1845.

In the early history of the Eel River Conference its work was confined more especially to the rural districts. Lately it has extended the field of operation, taking in many of the towns and cities of the state and many elegant churches have been built and today in Indiana her ministry has increased from a mere handful to hundreds of ardent workers, her membership reaching up into the thousands.

EARLY INCIDENTS

As has been stated, in the early thirties the whole of this section of the county was regarded as a mission ground by the churches, into which the different religious denominations sent ministers from the older states and settlements. These meetings at first were held in the

homes of the first settlers. Later on as the different settlements became larger log school houses were built. These were not only for school purposes, but for all public gatherings; religious, political or otherwise, as the case might be. (That being before the advent of electric lights, kerosene or even sperm oil lamps). When an evening meeting was to be held those who were interested in that particular meeting before starting from home would wrap up one or more tallow dips in a paper and take them along. When they arrived at the school house the dips were lighted and placed, not in a chandelier, but in a block of wood with a hole bored in it to receive the candle, the block being nailed to an upright piece with a small hole at the top so that it could be hung on the wall. If by chance some one living nearby should bring a candlestick it ornamented the speaker's stand, if not, a block of wood with a hole in it was used.

Many lively, enthusiastic meetings, both religious and political, were held in these little log school houses. The preacher was endorsed and enthused by frequent and loud hallelujahs, amens

and praise the Lord, which in these days of non-emotional religion would seem to border on the boisterous. As partisans—Whig and Democrat—they were equally enthusiastic, cheering their speaker to the echo.

In those early days it was no uncommon thing for preachers and laymen to attend church and other gatherings as well in their bare feet, indeed it was quite common. An incident is told in connection with the ministry of Elder Plummer, who fell in with the common custom and at times at least addressed his congregations while in his bare feet. At one time he was addressing a comparatively strange audience (barefoot). After a stirring sermon, which aroused and touched the hearts of the people, they held a testimony meeting when an old brother arose and said, "Brethren and sisters, I praise God for the good things I have heard today. They have done me a power of good, and I pray God to send us more barefooted preachers."

Among the earliest, if not the earliest, Christian preachers of this section of which we have any knowledge was Elder John

Plummer. He came to this part of the country in the early thirties and was, we believe, the pioneer Christian minister of Kosciusko county. Firmly rooted and grounded in the faith as promulgated by Christ and the Apostles, an earnest, diligent student of the Bible, and as such he went about preaching the good news of salvation all over the northern part of the state and that without any specified fee or salary, inspired only by an earnest zeal to bring others into the light and knowledge of the truth, working on his farm for the support of his family and often riding fifteen or twenty miles on horseback to reach his appointments. Like the valiant soldier he died on the firing line in the discharge of his duty with his face to the foe. While preaching in a little log school house on the old Samuel Thomas farm, east of town, he was stricken down by a stroke of paralysis, dying where he fell. Sudden and unexpected deaths were not then as frequent as they are at the present time and the sudden death of Elder Plummer and the peculiar circumstance attending it created general excitement all over this section of the country.

History of Leesburg.

114

LEESBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Leesburg Christian church was organized in the old Methodist church, corner of VanBuren and Hickory streets, November 28, 1869, by Elders George Abbott and D. W. Fowler, with the following officers: Deacons S. S. Roberts and J. F. Teeple; trustees, Nelson Watts and J. D. Case; Dr. Seymour was secretary and treasurer. The original organization was composed of nineteen members, some of whom were Margaret Hughes, John Teeple, Hester Teeple, Kate Hearn, Davis Teeple, Martha Teeple, James Hearn and Samuel Roberts and wife.

They held their meetings in the Methodist church about one year, then rented the old Good Templar hall, corner of VanBuren and Jefferson streets, owned by William Bishop. Here they remained two years.

In 1872 Mrs. Mary E. Bishop donated to the church a lot at the corner of Pearl and what is now Church street. The trustees, thinking that one lot was not large enough, bought land enough of Mrs. Bishop to make an acre. On this they built a neat frame building about the size of the present one at a cost

of \$3,600. This building was destroyed by fire in 1879. Nothing daunted, the second year they commenced the erection of the present neat and commodious building. The contract was let to Frederick Myers for \$3,600. Since then a furnace has been added and a gasoline light plant installed. After the erection of the first building the congregation grew quite rapidly, soon numbering nearly one hundred, with a Sabbath school numbering one hundred and over in daily attendance.

The ministers who have officiated in the Leesburg Christian church since its organization in 1869 are: George Abbott, D. W. Fowler, Manville, Hathaway, Thomas Whitman, C. V. Strickland, J. W. Bolton, L. Amber, James Atchison, Peter Winebrenner, E. V. Miller, McCollough, William Stewart, K. E. West, B. F. Kemp, Mrs. Mary G. Rheubottom, W. P. Baker, W. G. Parker, J. M. Brown, Himes, Tarr, D. E. Dixon. The present officers are: Trustees, S. Primley, Walter Irvine, L. Jeffries; Secretary, Miss Mae Piatt; Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Irvine; Sunday School Superintendent, Walter Irvine; Assistant, George Funk; Organist, Mrs. Walter Irvine.

LEESBURG INCORPORATED.

The question had been raised and discussed at different times as to the advisability of incorporating the town of Leesburg. In this case, as in all, most every case where an advance movement is proposed in a town or community, there are two sides to the question and this one was no exception.

It was argued that many improvements could be made in town if it was incorporated that could not be made otherwise; namely, sidewalks could be put down, a much-needed drainage system could be put in, a fire company could be organized and maintained for protection from fire and many thought it ought to be incorporated for school purposes also, while others thought that the increase in taxes would be a burden so large that it would over shadow any benefits which might be obtained by incorporation. The proposition to incorporate carried and an order to incorporate was obtained in 1876 and an order was issued for the election of a town board, which was held, resulting in the election of the first town board in Leesburg—President, W. J.

Crawford; Clerk, James W. Armstrong; Treasurer, W. D. Wood; Attorney, Dr. J. H. Long; Marshal, Alfred Clark. The school board appointed by the town board was President, A. M. Sanderson; Secretary, William Archibald; Treasurer, H. B. Stanley.

At the first meeting the subject of ordinances was thoroughly discussed and the clerk directed to draft ordinances covering as nearly as possible the points brought out at the meeting, which he did after consulting Marsh Parks, then clerk of the town board at Warsaw. The report was accepted at the next meeting. Soon after by decision of the board a large bill of two-inch pine planks was ordered, sidewalks put down, a fire company organized and quite a number of other improvements made. Everybody seemed pleased with the new order of things until a new question, probably unthought of before, sprang up; namely, as to the ownership of the school building and property. Some eight or nine years previous J. W. Armstrong, then trustee of the township, had built a large, two-story, four-room, brick school

History of Leesburg.

116

house at the expense of the township and it was the property of District No. 2. The newly appointed school board, acting under the incorporation act, had taken possession of the school building and property, claiming that when a town or village became incorporated the school board of the town became by virtue of that act the trustees of the school property lying within the limits of the incorporation and the legal successors of the township trustee and therefore was by right in possession and control of the school property inside of the corporation. To this move there was a decided opposition. The people in the school district took a strong stand against the claim of the school board and T. G. Berst, at that time trustee of Plain township, at the request of the school district brought action against the school board for possession of the school property. Pending the decision of the court trustee Berst rented a house at the east end of Prairie street and hired J. A. Irvine to teach the district pupils.

The suit brought before the circuit court by the trustee was decided in favor of Plain town-

ship. The school board appealed the case to the supreme court of the state and the supreme court reversed the decision of the lower court, confirming the right of the town to the possession of all school property situated within its limits.

There was some talk of building a school house for District No. 2 just outside of Leesburg, but as that did not meet with the the approbation of the township at large it was dropped and arrangement made for transferring the district pupils to the Leesburg schools, which most of them did.

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INTERMEDIATE BUSINESS MEN.

The time and space allowed in this condensed history of Leesburg and Plain township will not permit us to give even a short biographical sketch of all the business men who have been in business in Leesburg between the time when the Blaines, Becks and Moons were on the business stage of action in the old town and those men who today are engaged in business here, but we will do the best we can, trying not to omit the names of any.

History of Leesburg.

117

Edward Moon, a younger brother of Jonathan and George Moon, come to Leesburg in 1844 or '45, a bright, intelligent Irishman, fresh from the Emerald Isle, full of bright visions of liberty and success in this new country. Some time after he arrived in Leesburg he engaged in the drug business in the building now occupied by Wm. Stookey's restaurant. Like all the Moons, as a business man he was a favorite of the people and for many years did a flourishing business. His popularity placed him before the people as a candidate for County Treasurer, to which office he was elected. At the close of his term of office he engaged in business in the city of Warsaw, but until the time of his death he exhibited a strong attachment for Leesburg and a deep interest in her welfare.

Eli Summy, one of the earliest settlers of the county, was at one time engaged with a Mr. Biggs in the dry goods and grocery business and for a number of years was a resident of Leesburg. Later on he moved to his farm near Bourbon, where he died. His remains are resting in Leesburg cemetery by the side

of his wife and child, to whose memory he was so strongly devoted.

The Starr Brothers, Jews, (we think they came from Goshen or Elkhart) were here in business in Empire block until it burned, after which they left the town.

Robert Geddis was most likely the first man in Leesburg who was engaged in hardware as a distinct business in its self. He was a stirring, active business man in his day. He built the house now owned by Mrs. Daniel Myers and died there, leaving a wife and six children; Clara, May, Ida, William, Robert and James; all of whom are dead except May and Ida. Miss Ida has lived for several years in Colorado, where she has become quite prominent in educational matters. She was elected county superintendent of public schools of Park county.

S. F. Miller was at one time quite a prominent physician in Leesburg. He built the room now occupied by the band. There he had his office and a small supply of drugs and medicines. The Doctor was a jolly, hail fellow well met, having a pleasant smile and a hearty "how do

History of Leesburg.

118

you do" for everyone. He built the house now owned by Dr. Fermier. Later on he moved to Ira, Iowa, where he died some time ago.

Joseph Lessig, Sr., came to town in the fifties and bought the old Blaine store building and carried on a good trade in the grocery line for several years. He was a strenuous partisan and a rather blunt, out-spoken man. Yet, notwithstanding this fault, everyone seemed to respect Mr. Lessig. He was taken suddenly ill and died after but a day or two's illness.

* * *

LEESBURG HOTEL KEEPERS.

The first hotel, or rather tavern, keeper of which we have any knowledge was a man by the name of Perry, who kept a kind of stopping place for the accomodation of travelers. The next was Mr. Eskew, who built the house known as the American Hotel, with a barroom in the west end. Next came Hamilton Boggs, who is perhaps the oldest man now living who was intimately connected with the early history of Leesburg. Mr. Boggs was one of the old-time tavern keepers. He held forth

in the old American and, like all the old-timers, was acquainted with everybody and full of the friendly, hospitable spirit of the pioneers. He at one time owned much property in and around Leesburg, which he later on disposed of and settled on a farm west of town. The old gentleman to this day loves to relate incidents relating to Leesburg and its first citizens when it was the only business point in the county; the trading post to which all came for supplies.

The next, we believe, was Robert Blaine. He owned the hotel in the Empire block, which was burned. He afterward put up the building now owned by J. A. Irvine and named it after the one that was burned, (The Empire Hotel). Blaine was a natural born hotel man and pleased the public generally. Then came Curtis Miller, Cyrus Piatt, Dan Banta, Sarbaugh and Daniel Myers. Myers was another natural hotel man and he and his wife ran a hotel, which had a good line of customers. He finally bought the Robert Geddis property and opened a hotel. There he continued to do a good business until his death. John

Bortz was the last keeper of the old American Hotel. He owned it at the time it was burned.

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THE DRY GOODS MEN.

Edward Archibald, Sr., one of the earliest dry goods merchants, (whose history we inadvertently omitted in our mention of the pioneer business men of Leesburg,) was one of Leesburg's earliest and most prominent business men, and the one who remained the longest continuously in business. He was born in Derry county, Ireland, January 7, 1812. When but a young man, in company with others, he came to America in 1834 and settled near Philadelphia. He came west, arriving in Clay township, Kosciusko county, Ind., in 1837. Here he purchased 80 acres of land and commenced to improve it, but owing to adverse circumstances, he concluded to quit the farm and go into some kind of business. Accordingly, in company with his cousin, Jonathan Moon, he came in the same year (1837) to Leesburg, the only trading point in almost the whole county. Mr. Archibald and his cousin commenced business in a small store room on the south

side of VanBuren street, not far from where Harley Bros' store is now located. Here they sold goods for about three years, when they dissolved partnership by mutual consent. Mr. Archibald then built a store room just across the street (now the Metz restaurant, also the dwelling house to the west). Here he opened a general store on his own account. He conducted that store for about three years, when he went into partnership with Gardner Watts, a prominent mechanic of those days. This partnership was finally dissolved and Mr. Archibald continued the business until 1860, when he turned it over to his sons, Alexander and William Archibald. They conducted the business until 1865, at which time Mr. Archibald assumed control of the business, conducting it until 1871, when he finally retired and his youngest son, Edward Archibald, Jr., took charge of the store and continued until 1889, when the business was finally closed out, Edward Archibald, Jr., going into the insurance and brokerage business. Mr. Archibald, Sr., was like most natives of the Emerald Isle, impulsive, but gener-

History of Leesburg.

120

ous to a fault, kind to those he thought were in need, despising a pretender and a shirk. As a business man Mr. Archibald was a success. At the time of his death he owned a good 160-acre farm on the school section, a good town property and several thousand dollars in cash, notes and accounts. For several years he had been in poor health, the last few months of his life he began to fail quite rapidly and died April 15, 1875, age 63 years. None of the family are now residents of Leesburg except a daughter, a daughter-in-law and a grand daughter.

Thus time revolutionizes all things and a few years bring about changes that one would have thought almost impossible. But change is written on all things and the place which today knows us, will soon know us no more forever. In the home, on the street, today we are known and greeted by all we meet, but soon our very names will be forgotten and we would be strangers amid the busy throng that in the future will occupy the places we now hold. Such is life.

William Zimmerman & Co.

were prominent dry goods and grocerymen of Leesburg. Before the fire they occupied a room in the Masonic building. After the fire Mr. Zimmerman and son built a room in the new brick block in which they did a good business up to the time of his death.

Amos Garrett built a room at the west end of the brick block in which was opened a dry goods and grocery store under the firm name of Garrett & Shipley. This firm was succeeded by Shipley & Gawthrop and they were followed, we think, by Amos Gawthrop. Archibald Bros. and Edward Archibald, already mentioned, were dry goods merchants in Leesburg. F. G. Fried & Sons were for several years prominent dry goods men. Hall & Co. were in the dry goods business in the J. A. Irvine building. They were the first to do a banking business in Leesburg. Garrett Irvine was also among the dry goods men for a short time. Next came James Matchett, followed by J. E. Humphrey. The Todd Bros. also sold dry goods in the Irvine building.

LEESBURG'S DRUGGISTS.

S. F. Miller and E. Moon have already been mentioned. J. E. Stephenson and W. D. Wood were in the drug business for several years in the old Moon drug store. Both of them retired from business in Leesburg upon being elected to county office; Stephenson to that of sheriff and Wood to that of county clerk. George Armstrong was in the drug business a short time, moved his store to Silver Lake. Dr. Chandler kept drugs in the room now occupied by the Journal office. Frank Archibald and A. L. Buschel kept drugs for some time. J. A. Irvine, aside from Moon, J. E. Stephenson and Wood, was in the drug business the longest of any of the drug men of Leesburg. He was also connected with the Hall Co. in dry goods and banking business and was postmaster during both of Cleveland's terms of office.

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RESTAURANT MEN.

The men who kept restaurants between the time of the pioneer business men and those of today are to the best of our knowledge (probably not given in the order in which they succeeded each

other) James Sutphon, a native born, when quite a young lad met with an accident in the grist mill, in which his arm was literally pulled from his body by a belt in which he became fastened. He kept a fine restaurant in a room below the Masonic building for several years; finally moved to Chicago. C. H. Wilkeson held forth for a time in building now owned by Mrs. Hunter. Walters and Shortridge were among the successful restaurant keepers; also Parker, Jackman, (we think in the blue front), Leifer, Will Daugherty, Will Hall, George Hartman, (he also ran a meat market for some time) Secrist, Martin Feters, Eli Goshorn and Mrs. Ida Smith.

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GROCERY MEN.

Joe Lessig, Sr., already mentioned. D. H. Lessig was one of Leesburg's bright, intelligent, energetic, young business men. He was for some time employed in the clerk's office at Warsaw, taught school, was for several years engaged in the grocery trade, had charge of the bakery and restaurant and kept drug store. At the time of Leesburg's last big fire his grocery store was

History of Leesburg.

122

burned. When the new brick block was built he put up the room now occupied by Chas. Thomas. He was the promoter and one of the partners in the erection of the Leesburg roller mills, one of Leesburg's most profitable enterprises. He was postmaster, trustee of Plain township, was auditor of Kosciusko county for four years, in which position he made a fine record. At the close of his term of office he was elected president of the Lake City Bank of Warsaw, which position he held at the time of his death. He was a young man whose record as a business man and a citizen the old town may well be proud to claim as a Leesburg boy.

John Hower came here from Oswego and was in the grocery business for several years. He was a genial old gentleman and did a good business. While here he added quite a little to the appearance of the town and the value of its real estate by the erection of a brick residence now owned by Gene Harley. Kemper & Thomas were in the grocery trade for some time and were known in those days as "The Batchelors' Store;" a couple of

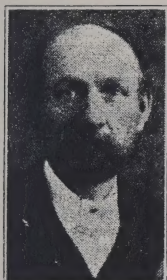
bright, intelligent young men. Mr. Kemper, we believe, started out in life as a school teacher, was at one time principal of the Leesburg schools. He was township assessor and postmaster. He finally became a benedict and moved West to grow up with the country, where we understand he is making good.

David Illick was one of Leesburg's grocery men for a time. He was also one of Leesburg's postmasters. He moved to the state of Washington some years ago. John Wood, Sr., kept grocery store for a short time. At his death the Wood Brothers conducted the business. Bert Robinson, then Dr. Arnold, kept a grocery for a time, we think, in the room now occupied by the postoffice.

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HARNESS MEN.

John McCaulley, a young man, was in the harness and shoe business for some time in a building where the furniture store stands at the present time. James H. Cisney afterward had a harness shop in the same place. He was another young business man of Leesburg, who became quite prominent officially and political-



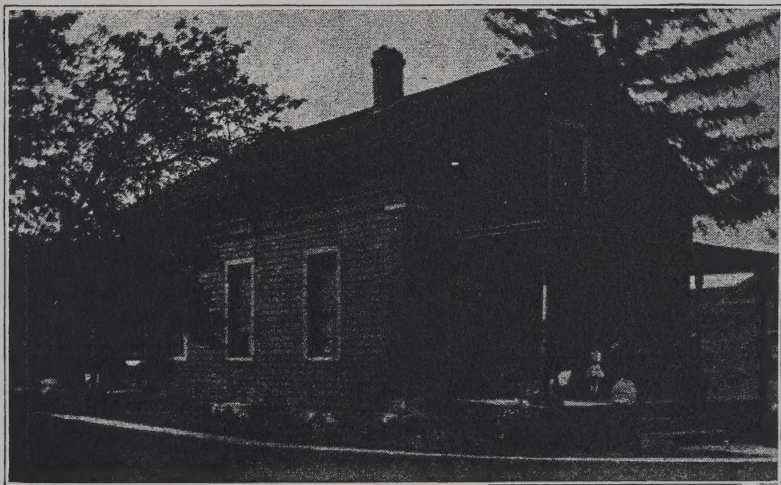
David K. Brown

Was born in Columbiana County, O., in the year 1845; died at his home in Leesburg May 4, 1901. In August 1863 he enlisted in Co. C 118th Indiana Infantry and was attached to the army of the Cumberland. He participated in the battles of Cumberland Gap, Strawberry Plains, Walkers Ford and several others, after which he was given an honorable discharge. Later he re-enlisted in Company A 153rd Indiana

Infantry as a sergeant and served until he was released from duty at the end of the war.

He was married to Lucy A. Houser of Wabash, Ind., in the year of 1871. To them three children were born, all of whom are still residents of this vicinity.

Mr. Brown learned the harness-makers' trade when he was a young man and engaged in business until failing health forced him to retire. He came to Leesburg in the year 1884 and started to manufacturing harness and saddlery, retiring about 1897. He helped to organize the Leesburg Grain & Milling Co., and served for a number of years as president of the school board.



Home of Mrs. D. K. Brown

ly in the affairs of the county and nation. He was twice elected sheriff of Kosciusko county, was appointed by the President as Indian agent, serving four years; was elected mayor of the city of Warsaw, was chairman of the Republican county committee and for years a prominent business man of Warsaw, and last, but not least, served three years in Co. B, 30th Ind. Vol. Infantry.

Harvey Patterson, a quiet, unobtrusive, good citizen, was in harness trade for some time. He was followed, we think, by D. K. Brown. Mr. Brown was probably the most successful harness man from a financial standpoint of any who were engaged in that line. After the fire he built the room now occupied as a harness shop. He was president of the school board for several years and a partner in the company which built the Leesburg roller mills, accumulating quite a little fortune. He was also a veteran of the Civil War. On account of ill health he sold out his business to A. C. Witzman. He was followed by Wm. Collett and B. S. Fothergill.

BARBERS.

Fifty or sixty years ago in this county a barber was a rarity, which one seldom came across, and, as a general thing, the only method in vogue was the crock method generally manipulated by the good housewife. Later on the barber business was handled almost entirely by colored men. Gradually white men began to take up the business until today the colored men have been supplanted by cleanly, well-kept white men and elegantly furnished tonsorial parlors, making the operation of shaving and hair clipping a pleasure rather than a thing to be dreaded. Leesburg in the past has been favored with a pretty good set of barbers, among whom, as we remember, Billy Potts, Bert Robinson, Frank Hower, Harry Stirling, Angel and Kehr. These were good barbers and built up a good trade. If there were any others we do not call them to mind.

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HARDWARE MEN.

Robert Geddis, pioneer in hardware. H. B. Stanley and W. H. Brown were in the hardware line for some time in the room

History of Leesburg.

124

now occupied by the Leesburg Journal. Mr. Brown died and, we believe, the business was closed out. Mr. Stanley was the first railroad agent in Leesburg. He was in the grain business for several years and built the first elevator. He was county commissioner for several years and treasurer of the school board for twenty-five years. He added quite a little to the improvement of the resident portion of town, having built two residences. One was destroyed by fire; the other is now owned by W. E. Summy. Later he occupied his time in looking after his lands—he possessed some five hundred acres. Died at his home in Leesburg in his 81st year.

We have placed Jordan Becknell with the hardware men, but with as much propriety he may be counted with the contractors, real estate owners, lumber dealers, threshermen and sawmill men. Thirty-five years ago he bought a sawmill located at the east end of VanBuren street. Later on he moved the sawmill to Plum street and built a lumber shed on the north side of VanBuren. He ran the sawmill for several years and finally sold out

to the Leesburg Stave & Heading Co. After this Mr. Becknell engaged in the lumber business, enjoying for several years a large trade in building material. This business he finally sold to the Dye Lumber Co. He was also engaged in the hardware, paint and oil trade for some time. His hardware he sold to Ringgenberg & Kohler.. As a dealer in town property he at one time owned the following: The lots now occupied by the Grain & Milling Co., the Clyde Hill lots, the lumber yards lot, the Landy Metz lots, Miss Allison's property, the Mrs. Cynthia Thomas lots, Mrs. Evans' lots, the property now owned by Mrs. Watkins, the Bartholomew lots, the lots now owned by Frank Bortz, the property where Edward Rankin lives, the Mrs. Robert Wallace lots, the property now owned by W. H. Berst, the lots now occupied by the barber shop, postoffice and Journal office; the property where Thomas Edgar lives, the school house lots and that occupied by Wm. Klingel—some sixteen or seventeen in all. He has erected buildings in the town as follows: Two rooms in the new brick

block, the Kohler and Baxter store rooms, the barber shop, the John Rippey house, also the Landy Metz house, the O. D. Metz house, the M. E. church building, the Frank Bortz house, the William Callison house, and the house where he now lives—eleven or twelve altogether—making him without doubt the leading citizen of Leesburg in the way of handling real estate and improving the same.

Grannis & Lukins were in the hardware business a year or two when Lukins went to North Dakota, where he has made good, owning a good 160-acre farm and is also engaged in the hardware line. R. C. Baxter came to Leesburg, we think, in 1863 and opened a hardware store in what is now the band room. Finally he bought the old Blaine corner of the Lessig estate. That building was burned during the big fire. After the new brick building was erected he moved into the room now occupied by H. M. Baxter, where he remained until the time of his death. He was a fine, reliable workman. H. M. Baxter and Orlando Metz were in the hardware business for some time, then sold out to Ring-

genberg & Berst. Dye & Summy started a hardware store in the old Baxter room. They did a good business for about two years and the latter part of 1913 sold out to S. B. Hendrickson, who came here from Ohio. After a few weeks Mr. Hendrickson sold the stock to Wabash parties and it was moved away.

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UNDERTAKERS AND FURNITURE DEALERS.

R. C. Smith came to Leesburg in the fifties. He bought out the David Roudabush establishment and for several years conducted a furniture and undertaking business. The front building (the main part of which is now Mrs. Watkins' residence) was used as the saleroom for furniture. A long, narrow, one-story building, attached to the main building and running nearly back to the alley on the north, was the workshop with a horse power in the north end for running the planers, lathes, etc. Here almost all the ordinary furniture used by the people was made. Coffins were rarely kept on hand. When one died the measure was sent in and the undertaker made the coffin. The best were made of

History of Leesburg.

126

black walnut. The plain were usually made of white poplar and given a coat of cherry stain and varnished. Oftentimes during a sickly season, when deaths were quite numerous, we have seen them working in the old shop until the wee hours of the night making coffins.

At one time a lady, who had been sitting up with a sick friend on Prairie street, was going to her home on VanBuren street. Some time after midnight she came past the old shop and was surprised to see it all lighted up and men working inside. She was startled, but supposed someone had died and a hurry call had been sent in for a coffin. But to her surprise the next day she learned that there had been no death in the neighborhood and that no one had been in the shop after work hours. Money would not hire that lady to pass the old shop after dark after that, and we knew several that avoided passing that corner after night.

Mr. Becknell later on moved the old shop to Plum street, converting it into a sawmill, which undoubtedly broke the spell of the spook coffin makers. R. C. Smith conducted the business there for

several years, when he sold out to Frank Hattle, Sr. He conducted the business for some time assisted by his sons, David and Frank Hattle. He was succeeded by the Hattle Brothers. They carried on quite an extensive business.

Daniel Banta was in the business for some time in the building now owned by W. F. Armington. He built the shop and house just west of it. Gary & Wilson were in this line in Leesburg. E. D. Carpenter had charge of furniture and undertaking rooms for a short time in the now Stookey restaurant. It was, we think, a kind of branch establishment from Warsaw owned by R. C. Smith.

C. B. Stiver came from Goshen—a bright, stirring, young business man who carried on good, paying business. He was a fine funeral director and took well with the people generally. Kemper & Zimmerman were in the business for a short time, followed, we believe, by Zimmerman Brothers and they were followed by C. R. Zimmerman. The latter carried on quite an extensive trade for some length of time. He was also quite popular

History of Leesburg.

127

with the people as a funeral director. He finally sold his business to Rodol Plummer and moved to Warsaw.

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PHYSICIANS.

Old Dr. Harper was a middle-aged man, as we recollect, in the early forties. He was partly an old school physician and part Indian doctor; at least he practiced both systems. He owned and lived on the farm now owned by George Funk. At that time the Harper farm consisted of 160 acres. He practiced in early days all through this part of the country.

Dr. Kendall was most likely the first physician who was located in Leesburg. He was a well read man in his day and held a big practice for such a sparsely settled country. These physicians were contemporary with Dr. James Armstrong, of Monoquet, and Dr. Tracy, of Warsaw.

Dr. Blue was among the early doctors and practiced medicine here for a number of years. He was killed by a runaway horse. Dr. S. F. Miller we have already mentioned. Dr. Billy Parks, as he was familiarly called, practiced in Leesburg in the sixties.

He was a good physician and a conscientious one. If he had a case that did not seem to get along as well as he expected he would say "Well, I have done all I can do and I would like to have counsel."

Dr. Edward Parks was contemporary with William Parks in Leesburg. He was a fine physician and surgeon. When the Civil War broke out he was appointed by Governor Morton surgeon of the 30th Ind. Regiment.

Dr. Chandler came to Leesburg from Oswego. He was a good doctor and one who took no chances when a case became critical. He moved to Warsaw and served several years as county doctor for the poor. Dr. W. P. Seymour was one of the very best physicians Leesburg ever had and his son-in-law, Dr. Peck, was a splendid second. Dr. S. Burket was resident physician here for some time. Dr. E. E. Johnston was another good, conscientious, mild-mannered gentleman and physician. He owned the property now owned by Dr. Fermier and built the office just west of the house. On account of ill health he moved to the East. Latterly Doctors Cole,

History of Leesburg.

128

White, Jones, Arnold, Parker and Matthews were resident physicians of Leesburg.

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NEWSPAPERS.

L. C. Zimmerman and S. J. North published the first newspaper printed in Leesburg in 1881 or '82. It was known as the "Kosciusko County Prohibitionist" and was published in the interest of the Prohibition movement with Mr. Zimmerman as editor. After eighteen months or two years it was sold to parties in Milford and moved to that place.

In 1888, at the earnest request of the Prohibition Central Committee, J. W. Armstrong commenced the publication of the "Kosciusko County Standard," not without considerable misgivings on account of the adverse circumstances; namely, the failure of two prohibition papers, one at Warsaw and one at Leesburg, and the strong (and we might say bitter) opposition toward any prohibition movement of a political nature and the mere handful of "Prohis" in the county who would naturally be looked to for support. But the business men and the citizens of Leesburg and vicinity, as did the old com-

rades and friends of the editor throughout the county, stood by the project. The editor of the Standard was also under many obligations to the editors of the Warsaw Union and Indianian, more especially to Gen. Reub. Williams for many acts of courtesy and aid when in a tight place.

A little incident which occurred will show some what the General's opinion of the Standard man. The editor of the Standard was attending a "Prohi" meeting at Indianapolis and the Republican editors were there at the same time holding an editorial convention. On the way home (we then changed cars at Anderson) as we stood on the platform the General came up and said, "Armstrong, come and let me introduce you to my friends," which was done in a kind, friendly manner, until one of the number was approached, who from appearances had indulged a little too much in Democrat whiskey. "Allow me," said the General, "to introduce you to my friend Armstrong, editor of the Kosciusko Co. Standard." As he was about to extend his hand he asked,

"What's the politics?" "Prohibition," replied the General. Withdrawing his hand he exclaimed, "To hell with the 'Prohis' and their contemptible sheets. They're doing their level best to break up the best party this country ever had." The General, putting his hand on his shoulder, said; "Mr. ———, you will have to take that back as far as Armstrong is concerned. He is a 'Prohi' editor and gives us prohibition straight out from the shoulder, but at the same time he is a gentleman who never calls a man a fool nor a liar, who may differ from him on this question." "Excuse me," he said, extending his hand, "I really did not mean to be personal."

So that, notwithstanding these apparently adverse circumstances, the Standard, to a certain extent, was a success and at one time had its patrons at every postoffice in the county, besides a generous foreign list. It was published for twenty years, latterly by J. W. Armstrong & Son. They sold it to Jacob Whiteleather & Son, who published it as the Leesburg Standard for some time, after which Armstrong & Son bought it back and soon af-

terward sold it John Fancil & Co. at Syracuse. The outfit was moved to that town and part of it is still being used in the Syracuse Journal office.

* * *

BOOT AND SHOE MEN.

S. K. Starr was an old time shoemaker, long before the days of patent shoes, in the good old days when, as winter approached, the paternal head of the family took the little ones to the shoe shop and left their measure for their winter shoes. Children then mostly ran barefoot the balance of the season. Sam was an excellent workman and could make a fine boot that would fit like a stocking and at the same time as easy on the feet as a moccasin, the pride of the beaus of those days (and they cost only ten dollars). Sam, as he was familiarly called, was a good, open-hearted soul as ever lived. He also added to the improvement of the town, having built the house where H. E. Kinsey lives, the house where Mr. Schell lives, the house where Emory Angel lives and the lower story of the old Good Templar hall.

Thomas Lessig, a son of Joseph Lessig, Sr., kept a boot and

History of Leesburg.

130

shoe store in the Masonic building for some time. He came out of the service broken down in health and died while a young man.

W. S. Tracy was in the boot and shoe trade for a while in Leesburg. After he moved from Leesburg he joined the Evangelical church and entered its ministry.

Fielding Drake was another shoemaker that was hard to beat. He came from Oswego and kept shop in the Masonic building. He sold that room to William Zimmerman, after which he bought the Hunter property that now is. He was a really bright, intelligent man and a fine workman. He died at his home in Leesburg some years ago.

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BLACKSMITHS.

The god Vulcan, 'tis said, in Heaven
was born,
Cast out by Juno, because the god
was lame,
Thus of his heavenly honor he was shorn
For that for which he was not to
blame.

So tumbling down to earth he came,
For this god Vulcan was surely game,
Notwithstanding that he was maim,
And soon on earth won honest fame.

He came to earth, at forge and anvil
wrought;
Made many things of use as he went
to and fro

That were with use and comfort frau't
To us poor creatures here below.

And his sons still with their anvils' merry ring,
And their forges' ruddy glow,
With the hammer's heavy swing
Forge out many useful things
like those of long ago.

John McConnell was probably the first son of Vulcan who wrought at the blacksmith's forge in Leesburg. In the early days the blacksmith shop was quite a rendezvous where the neighbors of the village and county met to crack their jokes and tell and hear the current news and gossip of the day, while they waited for their work to be done. Many implements, agricultural and otherwise, were made at the pioneer blacksmith shop that are now purchased at the hardware store ready for use which fact no doubt made the visitors at the smithy more numerous than at the present time.

A. M. Blaine was for years the village blacksmith. His shop stood facing VanBuren street on the corner where Frank Bortz' residence now stands. He was a good citizen, a good, industrious mechanic and at one time was quite an active member of the M. E. church. Powell G. Smith carried on a blacksmith

History of Leesburg.

131

shop for several years. His shop was at one time on the east side of North Harrison street. Later on he bought property on Prairie street and had his shop on the southwest corner of Alfred Goshorn's lot on Main St. The old shop is now used by Mr. Goshorn as a barn. In the latter years of his life he joined the M. E. church and was an active, energetic member, as he was in everything he undertook.

Edward Atterbury, Sr., Judge Atterbury, as he was commonly called, was a merry, eccentric, little Englishman and at one time well known in this part of the county. For several years he was one of Leesburg's blacksmiths.

The Hon. C. C. Beane was one of the burly, jolly sons of Vulcan who conducted a smithy in Leesburg for a good many years. He was a bright, jovial, intelligent man, well posted in politics and the general history of his country and the world. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served three years as captain in the 74th Ind. At the close of the war he came to Leesburg and opened his blacksmith shop and for many years the cheery ring of his anvil was heard in the west

end of town. Politically Mr. Beane was at first a Democrat, but later joined the Republican party and by them he was elected representative to the state legislature. Finally, on account of failing health, he sold out and in 1909 went to Goshen, where he spent his last days in the home of his daughter, Mrs. F. W. Morrice. He died in 1911 and the funeral was conducted by the comrades of Henry Chipman Post 442 G. A. R., of which he was a member, assisted by comrades of Chas. W. Howell Post No. 90, of Goshen.

W. F. Armington, a son of John Armington, and a native Leesburgonian and a genuine practical son of Vulcan, in 1880 or '81 set up business and conducted a blacksmith shop in the old P. G. Smith shop on Main street. He is noted for being a fine, first class mechanic. Isaac H. Hall came to Leesburg in 1904 and bought the old Fred Myers property of Harvey Stephenson and opened up a blacksmith shop, planing mill and general repair establishment at the north end of Pearl street, where he carried on a successful business until the fall of 1913, at which time he

History of Leesburg.

132

sold the land to Alex Hani and the shop to W. O. Lyons and bought a farm south of town. "Ikey," as he is familiarly called, did a good business and made many friends while in business here. It was a common remark about Ike that if there was any way possible to fix a broken piece of iron or wood he could do it.

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LIVERY MEN.

The livery men of Leesburg, prior to those of the present time, were to the best of our knowledge, J. Geyer & Son, John Luttrell, P. W. Brown, (Brown was a veteran of the Civil War, belonging to the 2nd Michigan Cavalry, and had the honor of being one of the detachment of his regiment who captured Jeff Davis). Then came Curtis Miller, Calvin Rohrer, L. A. Metz, Henry Kirkendall, Walter Wallace, Victor Wallace and Lidgard and Wright. Lidgard purchased the Cook property on Prairie street, remodelled the old dwelling house and built a livery and feed barn on the east side of the lot. Mr. Lidgard sold the house and barn to A. H. Brown. He made several improvements on the barn and finally sold it to

parties in Michigan. Mr. Brown since he came to Leesburg has proved to be a tactful business man and at the present time probably owns the largest amount of real estate of anyone in Plain township. He has added very much to the residential portion of Leesburg in the erection on VanBuren street of one of the finest and most substantial residences in the county.

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MEN OF THE MEAT MARKET.

In the early history of Leesburg the meat market was a thing unknown. Almost everyone had a pig pen at the rear of their lot and in it two or three pigs. Cows ran out in the open, each with a bell dangling from her neck. The calves were kept at home to induce the cows to return in time for milking. It was quite a pleasant rural sight at the close of the day to see the really large herd of town cattle coming up the Warsaw road with their many bells, each sending its peculiar musical note, as they slowly wend their way toward the village. (Yet it had its defects). In the fall the hogs were butchered and the meat salted down or smoked. A calf, or it

History of Leesburg.

133

might be a cow, was sometimes slaughtered, furnishing the family with meat for the year. So that a regular meat market did not seem to be required. During the summer occasionally someone—it might be a farmer or someone in town—would kill a veal or a small beef and peddle it out, and for a change from the cured meat the people bought it. Gradually these occasional butcherings came oftener and larger until the people almost imperceptibly depended upon the meat market for their meat.

Among those who first opened a market in Leesburg was A. M. Sanderson. He was followed by George Anglin, H. H. Dorsey, George Hartman, Eli Oswalt, John Muford, O. D. Ervin, Ervin & Miller and Walter Wallace. These men each made improvements as the business increased until today Leesburg supports a neat, up-to-date, sanitary meat market that will compare favorably with any in the county.

* * *

WAGONMAKERS.

That first wagon shop in Leesburg that we have any knowledge of was built on the north side of Prairie street on the lot

now occupied by J. Becknell's residence. It was a low, two-story building standing with the side to the street, with blacksmith shop on the north side. It was built, we believe, by a Mr. Chamberlin, who later moved to Elkhart. He was followed by Charles Knight, who learned his trade in the old shop. Amos Heath was at one time in partnership with Knight. Jacob Shrum also carried on a wagon shop on North Harrison street for several years. He was followed by a man whose name we cannot call to mind.

John M. Armington and sons, R. S. and W. F., established a wagon and carriage shop on No. Pearl street in 1883, known as Armington & Sons. After the death of John M. Armington the firm was known as Armington Bros. At this time W. F. sold his interest to his brother J. C. They continued in business until 1892.

* * *

In mentioning the intermediate business men we overlooked William Neff, who opened up a restaurant first in what is now known as the band room and later on moved into the Archibald

History of Leesburg.

134

room. Billy kept a first-class restaurant. Also that of Robert Gilliam, who remodelled the Archibald room, put in new counters and fixtures, making it up-to-date in every particular.

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THE PRESENT DAY BUSINESS MEN.

So far, to the best of our recollection, we have given the names and short biographical sketches of the pioneer and intermediate business men of Leesburg and, while at times it seems to be quite a task, still it has not been unmixed with a sense of pleasure to us to call to mind the scenes and friends of other years. Often, ere the good god Morpheus has closed our eyes in slumber, memory has been busy bringing to our mind, as if it were a panoramic view, the forms and faces of friends with whom we were so pleasantly associated socially and in a business way in the years of the past.

"Oft in the stilly night ere slumber's
chains have bound me,
Fond memory brings the light of other
days around me.

The smiles, the tears of other years,
the words of love then spoken,
Thus, in the stilly night ere slumber's
chain has bound me.
Fond memory brings the light of other
years around me."

THE LEESBURG JOURNAL.

The Leesburg Journal is the third newspaper published in Leesburg. It was established by F. J. Gibbard in 1908 in the old historic Beck building on the corner of VanBuren and Pearl streets.

Mr. Gibbard came to Leesburg from Bellefontaine, Ohio, while in quest of a suitable location in which to engage in the newspaper business, and being pleased with the location and the encouragement received from the business men and other citizens of Leesburg, decided to locate here. Accordingly, he opened up shop on Labor Day, 1908, and the first issue of the Journal appeared September 18, of that year.

The Journal is a neat, newsy quarto and as complete in its makeup as that of any paper in the county. In politics the Journal is independent. It was started in a small way without any blow or bluster, its first outfit consisting of a Washington hand press, a small job press and the balance of the equipment in like proportion. But from the start the Journal has been a success and today is equipped with a fine Potter drum cylinder printing

History of Leesburg.

135

press, good job press, both run by gasoline engine, and a good assortment of type for all classes of work. The Journal has a good and steadily increasing home and foreign subscription list and a good run of job work. The Journal owes its success first, to the fact that the editor and proprietor had the advantage of eighteen years' experience in several different city printing offices before coming to Leesburg, and is thus thoroughly acquainted with all the ins and outs of the printing business. Secondly, Mr. Gibbard is a thorough-going business man, has a place for everything and everything in its place, and looks carefully after every minutia of the business. Thirdly, his polite, gentlemanly treatment of those with whom he has business has won for the editor many friends and made the Journal a present success with bright prospects for the future.

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OUR PHYSICIANS.

The practice of medicine in 1914 has many marked improvements, not only in the medicines and formula and administration of the same, but also in the methods now used to reach the physi-

cian and the physician to reach the patient—the telephone and the swiftly going automobile—practically annihilating time and space and brings the physician to the bedside of his patient in an almost incredibly shorter time than that which was available to the practitioner seventy or eighty years ago, when the doctor had to make his visits astride of a horse with his pill bags thrown over the back of the saddle and thus mounted had to face the wintry blast and the summer heat, ford streams and wade the marshes of those days at the expense of health and often his own life by accident and exposure. Then, when we think now with a shudder of those horrid doses of ipecac, rhubarb and castor oil compared with the present day delicate, tasteless capsules, we are constrained to say, thankfully, "the world do move."

DR. P. G. FERMIER.

Dr. P. G. Fermier, successor to Dr. Johnston, came to Leesburg May 6, 1894, from Weisburg, Dearborn county, Ind. He is a graduate of the Medical College of Indiana; is a member of the American Medical Association, the Tri-State Medical Asso-

History of Leesburg.

136

ciation, Indiana Medical Association, the Kosciusko Medical Association and the Kosciusko Medical Society and has held the position of Health Officer for sixteen or seventeen years.

During the last twenty years he has established a large practice and is today held by his many friends as one of the most successful physicians of his day.

DR. C. E. THOMAS.

Dr. Chas. E. Thomas, the successor of Dr. White, came from Galveston, Ind., to Leesburg in 1900. He is a graduate of the Fort Wayne Medical College, also a member of the Indiana State Medical Association, the Sri-Ttate Medical Association, the American National Medical Association and is at the present time president of the Kosciusko Medical Society. He was also interne one year in Fort Wayne Hospital and one year in the Fort Wayne Hospital For the Feeble-Minded before he came to Leesburg, which gave him much practical knowledge of his profession. The Doctor, by close, faithful attention to business, has built up a large paying practice, and as a physician takes place in the foremost rank of his profession. Since

coming to Leesburg he has taken to himself a wife from among the fair daughters of the Queen of the Prairies, bought a neat resident home, to which he has added a neat office and waiting room. The Doctor has been quite prominent as a working member of the M. E. church of Leesburg and has been superintendent of the M. E. Sunday school for eight or ten years, besides other offices. He is also ex-presidents of the town board.

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LEESBURG'S POSTMASTER AND OFFICE.

Our present postmaster, Mr. J. E. Droud,
Keeps in touch with the coming and going crowd,
Because he is a gentleman neither coarse nor loud,
Of which his many friends are very proud.
Long may he wave and his office save
From every scheming politician,
For while he so well behaves
He sure deserves to hold position.

J. E. Droud received his commission as Leesburg's postmaster July 1, 1903, under the McKinley administration. He is successor to Daniel Kemper. The office was kept for some time in the room now occupied by Chas. Thomas. It was later on moved

to the west room of the Beck building, its present location. Mr. Droud has held the office between ten and eleven years. During that time the revenues of the office have increased more than 20 per cent. He has proved to be one of the best postmasters Leesburg has ever had—agreeable, kind and courteous to all the patrons of the office—and in his official capacity has won the confidence and good will of the public generally.

In 1902 two rural routes were established out of Leesburg. Samuel Garrett received the commission for route No. 2 with Edward Garrett as deputy. The latter moved West and Chas. Jordan was appointed deputy in his place. Subsequently he resigned and F. W. Berst was appointed deputy for route No. 2. S. N. Garrett has proved to be faithful and efficient in the position, having in eleven years missed but one day, and that on account of impassable roads. Clarence E. Ayres received his commission as mail carrier for route No. 1 in 1902 with Jacob Whiteleather as deputy. Mr. Ayers was a man highly respected by all the patrons on his route, faithfully per-

forming his duties, although under adverse circumstances on account of ill health, until a short time before his death, which occurred in February, 1912. Mr. Whiteleather, acting as deputy, carried the mail until March, 1912, when R. T. Zimmerman received his commission as carrier for route No. 1, with Mr. Whiteleather as deputy. Mr. Zimmerman has proven to be the right man in the right place.

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HARDWARE MEN.

R. B. & K.

Ringgenberg & Berst, successors to Byrer & Berst, were in the Becknell room for some time, but as their business increased they found the room too small and bought the old Jonathan Moon lot of W. A. Beane and built the fine brick business rooms they now occupy. They bought out the hardware store of Baxter & Metz, adding it to their already large stock and today are carrying as complete a stock of hardware as is found in the county. D. J. Kensingler has been taken into the firm and it is now known as Ringgenberg, Berst & Kensingler. The different members

History of Leesburg.

138

have built for themselves, good substantial residences. Mr. Ringgenberg built the frame residence now owned by Mr. Huffman, also the residence he now occupies. Ringgenberg and Kensinger are active members of the M. E. church. Mr. Berst is a member of Leesburg Lodge I. O. O. F., 432, also of Leesburg Encampment and has passed the chairs in both branches of the order, is a member of Leesburg Lodge F. & A. M. and an ex-member of the town board.

H. M BAXTER.

It was a trite saying of the late Reub. Williams in speaking of those who left Warsaw and returned, "they all come back," which has proven true in Mr. Baxter's case. After Baxter & Metz sold out Mr. Baxter was employed at Indianapolis until some time in January. He returned to Leesburg and opened a tin shop and hardware store in the old Baxter building. Mr. Baxter, we might say, was reared in a hardware and tin shop and anything that can be made by anyone out of tin, we believe, that "Hank" can make it.

FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING.

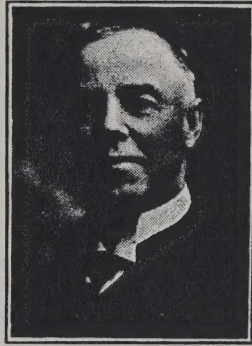
Rodol Plummer, successor to C. R. Zimmerman in the furniture and undertaking business, bought the buildings and stock of Mr. Zimmerman and is at the present time carrying a complete stock of furniture that will compare favorably in quantity and quality with any you will find anywhere. The undertaking branch of the business is up to date in every particular. As a funeral director he stands A1; prompt and gentlemanly in the performance of his services on funeral occasions. Besides the furniture business Mr. Plummer owns a farm in Prairie township, a good town residence, the old Edward Moon store room and the garage building.

* * *

MEAT MARKET.

M. F. Wallace is successor to Walter Wallace and is proprietor of a first-class meat market conducted in the S.N. Garrett room.

The Wallaces settled in Prairie township, were influential men and prominent land owners in that section of the county. We shall always remember with pleasure Moses Wallace and his



A. H. Brown and His Home



One of Leesburg's Prettiest Residences

first wife, a daughter of Samuel Stephenson, a most excellent lady, on account of an incident which happened to us when a mere lad many years ago, and for favors shown us by Mr. Wallace, financially and otherwise, in later years.

Robert Wallace came to Leesburg in 1900 and invested in quite a large amount of property. They have built three fine residences, barns, etc., bought and laid out the Wallace addition into town lots, all of which have been sold, laying the foundation for one of the most pleasant resident portions of Leesburg, adding at least from forty-five to fifty thousand dollars worth of taxable property to the town. As the years roll on and the names of the present residents of our beautiful village shall have faded from memory in the mists of the past, still the name of Wallace, like that of Lee, will be stamped on the escutcheon of Leesburg.

* * *

REAL ESTATE.

A. H. BROWN.

A. H. Brown has probably been in the real estate business longer than any one of the present real estate business men of Lees-

burg. He was for some time in the employ of Straus Bros., real estate agents of Ligonier. Later years he has carried on business on his own account and has closed out some of the largest real estate transactions of the day.

C. H. MURRAY.

Mr. Murray came to Leesburg in 1907 as pastor of the Leesburg M. E. church and, after 35 years' service in the ministry, retired from active service in the Northern Indiana Conference and returned to his home in Leesburg and is now doing a good business in handling real estate. His office is over the Journal printing office where he is ready to try to get or give to his patrons the best of bargains in the sale or purchase of real estate. He is also a notary public ready to attend to any business that may come to him in that line. He also handles insurance and takes orders for all kinds of nursery stock.

L. O. HARLAN

is also dealing in real estate, making real estate, pedigreed stock and farm sales a specialty. He is a graduate auctioneer who is rapidly making a good reputation as a first-class cryer of pub-

History of Leesburg.

140

lic sales, procuring for his patrons the highest price possible for property put up for sale.

* * *

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

Chas. Thomas, successor to Kemper & Thomas, is doing business at the old stand and keeps a full, select line of groceries, boots and shoes, overalls, etc. Mr. Thomas is doing a good, steady business and has a large number of regular customers. Mr. Thomas, like quite a number of our young men, started in life learning the young idea how to "shoot," at which he was for several years eminently successful. He was the successor of J. W. Armstrong as president of the Board of Education and during his term of office had charge of the erection of the present public school building. Upon the death of Edward Stookney, trustee of Plain township, he was appointed by the County Auditor to fill the vacancy, which position he now holds, and, we believe to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. Mr. Thomas' father, Jackson Thomas, was a veteran of the Civil War, having been of Co. M, 2nd Ind. Cavalry. Mr. Thomas always takes a live-

ly interest (as does, in fact, every citizen of Leesburg and vicinity) in the celebration of Decoration Day, in memory of thirty or forty Union soldiers, Leesburg and Plain township boys, who are sleeping their last sleep in our beautiful cemetery.

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TELEPHONES.

In 1902, twelve years ago, Joseph Baker, of Warsaw, then in the employ of Straus Bros., came to Leesburg and endeavored to secure enough subscribers to start a telephone exchange, a branch to the Commercial Co., of Warsaw, but met with no success. The business men did not seem to be interested in the proposition. It is said fortune knocks once at every man's door and if that call is neglected it may never be repeated, but in this case Leesburg was given another chance.

About two years after Mr. Baker was here, L. M. Neher, who had organized the Royal Telephone Co. at Milford, came to Leesburg and made an effort to establish a Royal exchange here. Meeting with better success than his predecessor, he obtained subscribers enough to op-



J. E. ARMSTRONG

Treasurer and Manager of the Public
Service Telephone Company

History of Leesburg.

141

en an exchange. He then secured from the town board a franchise to operate in Leesburg and opened his exchange in the rooms now occupied by C. H. Murray, with J. E. Armstrong as local manager. Under the management of the local agent the agency grew quite rapidly as people began to realize and appreciate the benefits of the system to all, and in the course of two years a good, paying exchange had become a fixture in Leesburg.

In 1907 J. E. Armstrong secured an option on what was known as the Wilmot Telephone Co. Soon after W. H. Stanley went into partnership with Armstrong, the deal was closed out and the property of the Wilmot Telephone Co. was turned over to the new company, of which H. B. Stanley was president, W. H. Stanley, secretary and J. E. Armstrong, treasurer.

In 1909 the Wilmot Telephone Co. purchased from the Royal the Leesburg exchange. At that time the company was reorganized under the name of the Public Service Telephone Co., for which they received a franchise, with the following official corps: A.

H. Brown, president; Frank Bortz, vice president; W. H. Stanley, secretary; J. E. Armstrong, treasurer; H. E. Kinsey, director. The company has exchanges in Leesburg, North Webster, Cromwell and Wilmot, with the home office over the Peoples Bank at Leesburg.

Since the purchase of the Wilmot telephone interests all the lines running into the different exchanges have been practically rebuilt with new poles and wire. The old switchboards have been taken out and up-to-date boards installed in their places. In the telephone business it is an impossibility to render a strictly perfect service at all times and under all circumstances, but it is the aim of the Public Service Telephone Co. to give as near as possible a perfect service.

MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO.

The Mutual Telephone Co. was organized, we think, about the same time as the Royal was at Milford with the home office at Stony Point. Shortly after the incorporation of the Royal exchange at Leesburg the manager of the Mutual Co. applied for and received a charter to operate an exchange in Leesburg, with

History of Leesburg.

142

Meshach Ross as local agent. The incorporation of two telephone companies in a small town like Leesburg for a time created some confusion, but later on matters were amicably arranged by a trunk line connection between the two switchboards. The Mutual exchanges are Etna Green, Millwood, Leesburg and Stony Point. The home office is at Stony Point. The Mutual is a well-organized company, has several hundred phones in service and is doing a good business covering nearly, if not quite all, of Etna and Prairie townships. The present local manager at Leesburg, Charles Lashway, is an up-to-date telephone man and a pleasant gentleman, under whose management the two companies are working harmoniously.

* * *

AUTOMOBILES AND GARAGE.

As soon as there become a demand for a garage in Leesburg, Stanley & Armstrong rented a room on South Pearl street, where they carried on the business for some time over a year, when Rodol Plummer built a neat cement block garage up in town on VanBuren street. They rented the new, up-town room and

are at the present carrying a full supply of auto supplies. They also employ a first-class mechanic for repair work. For a year or more they have engaged in buying and selling autos and have been successful in handling the Crow, Brush, Studebaker, Overland, Hudson and Ford cars.

* * *

WAGON AND CARRIAGE SHOP.

W. F. Armington is successor to Armington Bros., who went out of business in 1902. Mr. Armington was born in Leesburg October 16, 1857, in the building now used by Lyons & Tucker as a blacksmith shop. The building then stood on the lot now occupied by Mr. Ringgenberg's residence. He is the oldest resident that has made Leesburg his home from birth (with the exception of five months while living on his farm). He has been in the carriage business since 1883, making his business career the oldest of any in town. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. Encampment, I. O. O. F., F. & A. M., K. of P., Rebekahs, Pythian Sisters and K. O. T. M. He is an ex-member of the town board, having been twice elected, also ex-

city clerk. He says the best joke on him was when the people elected him Justice of the Peace. He is also a member of the M. E. church. Through his personal efforts the fine cement walk to the Leesburg cemetery was built. His carriage, blacksmith shop and residence are on East Prairie street, what used to be the Dan Banta property.

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HARLEY BROTHERS.

The Harley Brothers, George, senior partner, and E. A. Harley junior partner, came from Sherwood, Ohio, in 1880 and located in Clunette as successors to Nealy, Brown & Co., proprietors of a general store at that place. While in Clunette, in addition to a large local trade, they engaged quite extensively in the huckster business, having two or three wagons on the road. Thus the Harley Bros. became generally known as business men all over this section of the county.

In 1900, believing that a more central point for this increasing business would be better, they moved to Leesburg, opening up their store in the room now occupied by F. D. Irvine. Here they remained between one and

two years, when their increased business required a larger room. They then rented the William Zimmerman store room. In 1910 George Harley died at his home in Leesburg honored and respected by all who knew him as a business man and a citizen. He was a member of the Leesburg Lodge F. & A. M. In 1910 E. A. Harley, junior member of the firm, purchased the Zimmerman store room and made several important improvements in the extension of the store room proper, the storage room to the rear and the basement room, which became necessary to meet the demands of their increasing volume of trade.

E. A. Harley is ex-treasurer of Kosciusko county and a gentleman highly respected as a business man by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. Since the Harley Bros. came to Leesburg the business has been practically carried on by Eugene and John Harley, sons of George Harley. They have proved themselves to be good, practical, everyday business men, have built up a good trade for the firm and made many friends in Leesburg and vicinity.

History of Leesburg.

144

O. D. METZ & SON.

O. D. Metz & Son, successor to Robert Gilliam, came from Oswego, where they had conducted a hotel, to Leesburg in July, 1911, and opened up a first-class restaurant with a lunch counter.

* * *

WILLIAM STOOKEY.

William Stookey. formerly a resident of Leesburg, but who had been in the West for several years, came back to Leesburg in 1913 and purchased the Smith restaurant, in connection with which he conducted a jewelry store, doing a good business. He added gradually groceries, canned fruit, etc., and as his stock increased his trade increased and soon called for more elbow room. In February, 1914, he rented the J. A. Irvine room and there fitted up a good restaurant, grocery department and a jewelry store. The jewelry store is something Leesburg has needed for many a day, and as Mr. Stookey is a fine hand at watch repairing, will be appreciated by the people generally. The business is now conducted under the firm name of Stookey & Son.

The Stookeys—Simon, Samuel

and John--the fathers and grand-fathers of the present day Stook-eyes, were among the strong, stalwart pioneers of Plain township; good, friendly, neighborly, quiet, law-abiding citizens, yet men who would not dodge a fight in defense of what they thought was right.

* * *

THOMAS EDGAR.

Our present jovial village blacksmith was born and reared in Leesburg, learned his trade in the smith shop of the old Charlie Knight establishment, married in Leesburg, is carrying on business in Leesburg, rearing his family in Leesburg, is the grandson of a former Leesburg blacksmith, in fact he is an all around up-to-date Leesburg boy, a jolly good fellow, a good workman.

* * *

WILLIAM KLINGEL.

William Klingel, the Leesburg harness man of the present day, came from Warsaw in 1910 and opened a harness shop in the D. K. Brown room. For some time after Mr. Brown, Patterson and others, who were here permanently in the harness business dropped out, our harness men to a great degree were transients,

who for one reason or another, did not stay long enough to establish a business and for this cause a certain portion of that trade gradually drifted away. This was about the situation when Mr. Klingel came here from Warsaw, but since the people have learned Mr. Klingel is here to stay, the trade is coming back. Big money has been made in the harness business in Leesburg and can be made again by a man who will stay by it, and this, we believe Mr. Klingel will do. It gives us pleasure to place his name on the list of active business men of Leesburg.

* * *

W. A. KOHLER & CO.

W. A. Kohler & Co., dry goods and grocery merchants, are successors to Humphrey & Martin. The members of the company at the present time are W. A. Kohler, Frank Bortz and H. E. Kinsey. Audrey Kinsey represents his father in carrying on the business.

Mr. Kohler came to Leesburg some twenty-two years ago as agent for the Wabash Paper Co. Since then he has accumulated considerable property and at the present time owns a farm at the

east edge of town on which is one of the best celery and onion fields in the county. Leesburg celery is in demand in every section of the state.

Mr. Bortz has been a resident practically all his life and has been very successful as a farmer and breeder of fine stock, raising some of the finest cattle ever put on the market in a county noted for its fine stock.

Mr. Kinsey came to Leesburg in 1898, after having served two terms as county surveyor. His son Audrey is a bright, intelligent young man, possessed of fine business qualifications, and is connected with the business.

* * *

THE LEESBURG BANK.

The Peoples Bank of Leesburg opened for business on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 1903. The principal stockholders are Joel Hall, of Warsaw, Frank Bortz, J. A. Irvine and C. A. Hall. The first officers of the Bank were Joel Hall, president, Frank Bortz, vice president, and J. A. Irvine, cashier.

The Peoples Bank has been in operation over eleven years and has proved to be a real success. In 1908 it was authorized and merged into a state bank with a

History of Leesburg.

146

capitalization of \$25,000. The increase in deposits at the present time has reached \$122,210, the surplus \$2,500, furniture and fixtures \$1,031.02, due from banks \$27,724.81, cash on hand and cash items \$4,552.35, interest paid \$299.00. The volume of business done during the last year was over one million six hundred thousand dollars.

* * *

LEESBURG FLOURING MILLS.

The first flouring mills in Leesburg were built by David Roudabush in 1850. This mill changed hands several times and was finally destroyed by fire in 1868. The second mill was built by Armstrong & Summy on about the same spot as the first stood. These mills were buhr mills and had three run of stone. This mill also passed through several hands and was finally taken to Syracuse by Mr. Crockett, then owner. The building was then sold to Henry Kirkendall and rebuilt on his farm, now the Albertson farm, and used as a barn. In 1899 David Lessig, H. E. Kinsey, P. M. Thompson and D. K. Brown organized a company and built the present roller flouring mills at the east end of VanBur-

en street, nearly opposite the Big Four depot. This mill, two-story and a half, is fitted out with a complete set of rollers and all the most improved facilities for the manufacture of the first grades of flour. The mill has a capacity of 75 barrels per day and has been a success from the start under the management of Mr. Kinsey. It is an axiom all over the county if it is from the Leesburg roller mills it is good. The company also owns the Leesburg elevators and purchase and store all kinds of grain.

The senior partner, Mr. Lessig, a Leesburg boy and highly respected by all who knew him, unfortunately died at his home in Warsaw, mourned by a large circle of friends.

Mr. Kinsey came to Leesburg from Warsaw and, besides serving as manager of the above firm, is at present treasurer of local school board.

P. M. Thompson some time ago sold out his interest in the mill to the company and is now engaged in looking after his farm interests and buying grain.

D. K. Brown, the junior partner, came to Leesburg from Wabash in 1883 and bought the Pat-



Home of J. W. Armstrong



HIGH SCHOOL, LEESBURG, IND.

Leesburg's Public School

terson harness shop. He enjoyed a large patronage until the fire of 1889, which destroyed the business houses along the south side of VanBuren street. He erected the brick building now owned by his wife and occupied by Wm. Klingel. Shortly after he joined the Mill Co. he sold the harness business on account of failing health. Mr. Brown was a good citizen and a fine business man and before his death, which occurred at his home in Leesburg May 4, 1901, had accumulated quite a neat little fortune.

* * *

THE DYE LUMBER CO.

The Dye Lumber Co. is successor to Jordan Becknell, who for a number of years carried on the lumber business in Leesburg. Mr. Herbert A. Dye, the manager, came to Leesburg from Hamlet, Ind., in 1909, but originally from Piedmont, West Va., and like most southern men we have found him to be a kind, genial gentleman and a good business manager. Since he came to Leesburg he has made extensive improvements in the company's property, enlarging the lumber sheds to more than double their former capacity, and has built a

fine office and store room.

The Dye Lumber Co. handles all kinds of lumber, building hardware, paints, etc. Mr. Dye as we have said, is a kind, genial, sociable gentleman and has as a natural consequence got next to the people and is doing a fine, paying business. He is a prominent member of the Odd Fellow and Masonic lodges, is a past N. G. of the Odd Fellow lodge and has been for some time a member of the town board and at present is president of the board. Mr. Dye has purchased two lots on Church street in the Wallace addition and has built a neat, commodious bungalow. From present appearances he will soon be comfortably situated on Easy Street and his name recorded among the successful business men of Leesburg.

* * *

G. F. JORDAN.

Charles F. Jordan, successor to Jacob Whiteleather in the dray line business, came to Leesburg from Bourbon in 1903. By reason of his careful and close attention to work Mr. Jordan has built up a good paying business. He is one of Leesburg's progressive citizens and an act-

History of Leesburg.

148

ive member of the M. E. church, being one of the board of stewards. Mr. Jordan is P. N. G. of the I. O. O. F. lodge and secretary of the school board.

* * *

CALVIN BAUGHER

The first sawmill in Plain township was built in 1836 on Tippecanoe river, south of the Hamilton Rankin farm, by Mr Lee, the founder of Leesburg. Several parties have since engaged in the sawmill business in Leesburg and Plain township. Calvin Baugher, the present sawmill proprietor, came to Leesburg 35 years ago from Bourbon. For several years he was engaged in threshing and later on built a sawmill. He has been quite successful in the sawmill business, his mill being located at the northeast corner of Pearl and Plum streets. Mr. Baugher's residence on east VanBuren street is the oldest house in Leesburg, having been built in pioneer days when log cabins were more plentiful than frame buildings.

* * *

CHAS. M. LONG.

Chas. M. Long, Leesburg's present Big Four railway agent,

was born in Benton and reared on the farm of his grandfather (Joel Long), just east of town. Mr. Long was graduated from the Leesburg high school and took up railroad work in 1902. In the year 1905, Mr. Long was promoted to agent and placed in charge of the Leesburg office of the Big Four and is still holding that office to the entire satisfaction of the company and its patrons. Mr. Long is a prominent member of Leesburg lodge F. & A. M., is a Past Commander of Knights Templar and is at present president of the Leesburg school board. The Long family was quite prominent in the early history of Leesburg.

* * *

AMOS YOUNG.

Amos P. Young, proprietor of Leesburg's only tonsorial parlor, came here from Nappanee in 1899 and purchased the barber shop operated by Fielding Angel. During the fifteen years since Mr. Young has built up a good, substantial trade and is among our most highly respected business men. He is the oldest business man who has been continuously in the same business in the same location of any on VanBur-

History of Leesburg.

149

en street. He has bought two lots on east Prairie street and on one has erected a comfortable home. Clarence Young, who has been connected with his father in the barbering business, is a graduate of the Leesburg schools and is a young man of good habits and a good moral standing in the community.

* * *

JACOB WHITELEATHER.

Jacob Whiteleather, at present agent for the Winona Interurban Railway Co., came to Leesburg from Millwood in 1900. He served as teacher in the Leesburg public school for four years and had charge of the Monoquet school for three years. He was editor of the Leesburg Standard for nearly two years. Mr. Whiteleather is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge. In 1901 he was elected town clerk and held that position with credit for thirteen years. In August, 1913, he was appointed local agent for the interurban company and continues to fill that position to the satisfaction of all.

* * *

P. M. BRIDENTHRALL.

Percy M. Bridenthall, Leesburg's most successful onion and

celery producer, came to Leesburg from Pierceton with his mother when but six years of age. He attended school here and was graduated from the high school. He is a member of the Odd Fellow and has passed the chiars in both the subordinate lodge and Encampment and has been a member of the Leesburg band since its organization. For several years Mr. Bridenthall worked for W. A. Kohler in the onion and celery fields. Ten years ago he was made manager of the business and by strict attention and careful study of the best methods has made the business a complete success and Leesburg celery has gained a reputation far and near. The annual business runs up into thousands of dollars and many boys find profitable employment during the summer months under Mr. Bridenthall.

* * *

C. H. WILKESON.

Charles Wilkeson, the junk man, has been a resident of Leesburg for many years and is well known throughout the county. He was at one time engaged in the restaurant business here, but for several years past has devoted his attention to buying all

History of Leesburg.

150

kinds of junk. He has been somewhat successful.

* * *

STAGE & POSTMA

Messrs. Stage & Postma, successors to F. D. Irvine & Co. in the drug business, came to Leesburg in April, 1914, from Gary, Ind., and purchased the business from the above firm. James B. Stage, senior member of the firm, is manager. He is a licensed pharmacist and thoroughly acquainted with the drug business. During his short stay here he has made a good impression with the people in general and will no doubt receive a generous patronage.

* * *

LYONS & TUCKER

This firm is successors to I. H. Hall in the general repair business. W. O. Lyons owns the tools and machinery and I. N. Tucher simply holds a working interest in the business. Their shop is well equipped for all kinds of repairing, both of iron and wood.

* * *

FRANK MILLER.

Mr. Miller is successor to Ervin & Miller in the livery business, having purchased the in-

terests of his partner, O. D. Ervin, early in 1914. Ervin & Miller conducted the livery barn for some eight or ten years and have made a specialty of transferring passengers to and from the Kosciusko county lake resorts. Several other firms have sprung up as competitors, but each has gone down on the record of failures, and Mr. Miller now has the field to himself.

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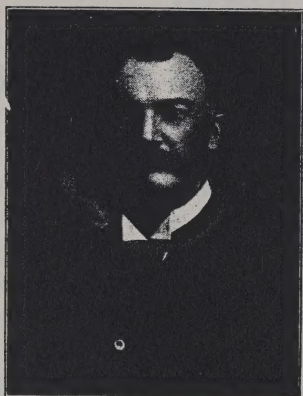
CARPENTERS.

Leesburg is well blessed with carpenters, four firms now being engaged in the contracting business. These men are all well known and their reputations as good workmen is proven by the fact that all have more work than they can handle. These firms are Clark Powell & Son, Bert Frederickson & Son, Alfred Goshorn & Son and William Irvine & Son.

* * *

DECORATORS.

The painting and paper hanging trade, like the carpenter business, is well supplied with workmen. Web Brown and Paul Byrer do paper hanging as well as painting and A. R. Kinsey and Walter Piatt follow the paint brush.



Jacob Whiteleather

Born July 3, 1858, in Huntington County, Indiana, and came to Leesburg in 1900. He taught school for thirty years and served as town clerk in Leesburg for twelve years. He is now agent for the Winona Interurban Lines in Leesburg.

W. H. Stanley's Residence

On the site of the old Methodist Church in Leesburg



LODGES AND SOCIETIES.

HORSE COMPANY.

Probably the first society organized in Leesburg is what is known as the Leesburg Horse Company. This organization was formed for the purpose of protection from what seemed to be a thoroughly organized band of men who made horse stealing their regular business.

So many seemingly honest men had become affiliated, directly or indirectly, with this band of thieves that at one time it was almost impossible to convict any of them, even though caught "dead to rights." Finally the stealing of horses became so bold and frequent that it was necessary to organize some means of protection and societies similar to the Leesburg Horse Company were formed all over the northern part of the state.

If the early history of the Leesburg Horse Company could be written its hurried midnight calls to take up the trail of some thief who had got away with his neighbor's horse, the thrilling incidents hairbreadth escapes and personal bravery of members during that lawless period, would read somewhat like the tales of Knight Er-

ranty in its romantic exploits, in which often times single handed they overtook and captured their man, turned him over to the tender mercies of the law and returned the horse to the owner.

Many of the companies, as the need of them became less, disbanded, but the Leesburg company has kept up its organization and regular meetings are still held. When horse company meeting day comes around the town takes on the appearance of a rally day. Almost every horse-owner in this section is a member. The company has accomplished much good in the past and is a menace to all long fingered gentry. The present officers are George Thomas, president; W. H. Berst, secretary, and J. A. Irvine, treasurer.

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SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

In the early fifties a division of the Sons of Temperance (as their lodges were called) was organized in Leesburg. The Sons of Temperance was to a certain extent an evolutionary movement, having for its antecedent what was known as the Washingtonian Society, which was simply a society organization, the members pledg-

History of Leesburg.

152

ing themselves to abstain from the excessive use of intoxicants.

While the Washingtonian movement was a big step forward in the interest of temperance, it was evident that a society was needed which would afford a refuge to reformed men that would shield them from temptation, a brotherhood which would attract them by the cordality of its sympathies, interest them by the variety of its functions, and strengthen by its moral support. A large portion of the reformed men had emerged from the deepest poverty and must begin life anew. It was therefore plain to the founder of the Sons of Temperance that a beneficial clause should be placed in their constitution and they declared that the objects of the society were to shield its members from the evils of temptation, to afford mutual assistance in case of sickness and to elevate their characters as men.

The division of Sons of Temperance organized in Leesburg was composed of most of the business men of that day, among whom were Edward Archibald, Sr., Johnathan Moon, Harrison Pool and many others. Good work

was done in Leesburg and a thorough reform affected among its members. Few, if any, ever returned to their former bad habits.

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GOOD TEMPLARS.

The Good Templars lodge was organized in Leesburg in the late fifties. It was not a beneficial society but entirely fraternal. No temperance society has ever erected a higher standard than is found in the principles adopted by the Good Templars.

The social advantages of the order were great. The entire family could meet around a common altar. The youth of all sexes there found genial hearts with which they could mingle, safe and secure from the taint which they might receive in other circles. For years the Order of Good Templars in Leesburg was a great success both morally and numerically. The number of members in good standing at one time was between two and three hundred.

Their first lodge room was over the old American hotel. Later on a fine lodge room was built over the room erected by Samuel K. Starr, corner of Jefferson and

Vanburen streets (the Bishop corner). This building was finally sold to Charles Knight and moved to Prairie street, where the lower room was used as a wagon shop and the lodge room as a paint shop. The building was destroyed by fire.

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MASONS.

Under Dispensation.—Leesburg Lodge No. 181 F. & A. M. was organized under dispensation granted by Most Worshipful Grand Master C. Lawrence Mar. 6, A. L. 5855, A. D. 1855, with William Barnette, worshipful master, W. M. Parks, senior warden, Elijah Blackford, junior warden. By the worshipful master the following officers were appointed and installed on March 28, 1855: Robert Geddis, senior deacon; William C. Mason, junior deacon; Johnathan Moon, treasurer; Edward Moon, secretary; Nelson Watts, Tyler.

Under Charter.—The lodge was organized under charter May 31, 1855, granted by the most worshipful grand master, A. C. Downey. The officers were Will Barnette, W. M.; Wm. K. Fidler, S. W.; E. S. Blackford, J. W.; Johnathan Moon, Treas.; Edward

Moon, Sec.; Robert Geddis, Sr. deacon; Eli Summy, junior deacon Nelson Watts, Tyler.

Charter Members.—The charter members were J. R. Huff, J. G. Long, Andrew Miller, Wm. Parker, Eli Summy, J. W. Stephenson and Antipas Thomas. Part of them received the degrees while working under dispensation. The following candidates received the degrees during the first year: Wm. Armsworth, W. J. Chaplin, J. Devolt, H. B. Wheeler and George Moon, Sr. There was but one death during the first year, that of Johnathan Moon, who died Dec. 20, 1855.

First Lodge Hall.—The first Masonic lodge hall was located in the Empire block over Eli Summy's store room and was known as Summy hall. This hall they occupied until Nov. 1, 1857, when it was destroyed by fire with nearly all the furniture and fixtures.

The first meeting held after the fire was in a room fitted up by Edward Moon, over his drug store, December 30, 1857. This hall was vacated in March, 1860, and the lodge then occupied what is known as the Hotel Hall, on the third floor of what is now

History of Leesburg.

154

the bank building. Nearly all furniture in this hall was made Eli Summy, a very enthusiastic Mason, and the columns and globes were made by him and painted and finished by J. W. Armstrong and were the special pride of the lodge.

Into Their Own Hall.—The Hotel hall was occupied until Nov. 21, 1866, at which time the lodge moved into their own lodge room over the Lessig store room, on the site of the old American hotel. This was the first home that Leesburg Masons could call their own—built by the lodge, owned by the lodge and every member was gratified and proud to be the possessors of their own home.

A Second Fire.—The lodge was in the enjoyment of the new home about 23 years when on the night of Dec. 31, 1899, the Lessig building, together with all other buildings along that part of the business section of Leesburg, was destroyed by fire and for a second time the fire fiend had reduced their lodge home to ashes. The charter, floor carpet, Summy chairs and much other property was burned, the loss being estimated at close to \$2000, with in-

surance of only \$500. Again they were without a home and Leesburg lodge No. 91 F. & A. M. was a "blue" lodge in every sense of the word.

In Their Own Home Again—Blue, we imagine, was more than the fraternity blue on that fateful New Year's morn, but it is not human nature to remain blue from the effect of any disaster, and so it was with the business men of Leesburg. In a short while the following men decided to rebuild, not frame buildings but substantial brick buildings which would add to the appearance of the town and be less liable to destruction by fire: Jordan Becknell, William Zimmerman, D. K. Brown, D. H. Lessig and Amos Garret. Inspired by the enthusiasm of the business men the Masons accepted the proposition of Mr. Becknell to build over part of his new store rooms and in a little less than a year had completed their new home, a fine spacious hall nicely furnished with emblematic carpet donated by Eli Summy and Hamilton Rankin, a nice banquet hall on the east and a cook room to the south. This beautiful new hall, by order of the

History of Leesburg.

155

Most Worshipful Grand Master Tooil was dedicated in December 1891 by H. B. Stanley, W. M. Rev. Work delivered the dedicatory address. The present officers are W. M., Fred Berst; S. W., O. D. Ervin; J. W., J. C. Hill; S. D., M. F. Wallace; J. D., C. C. Lashway; Treas., W. H. Stanley; Tyler, Alfred Goshorn.

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EASTERN STAR.

Leesburg Chapter No. 287 Order of Eastern Star was organized under dispensation Feb. 25, 1903, by A. W. Byrer, Grand Patron, and the following officers were installed: Mrs. Lula Fermier, W. M.; Perry Thompson, W. P.; Mrs. Nannie Armington, A. P.; Mrs. Myrtle Kohler, secretary; Mrs. Emma Archibald, treasurer, Mrs. Edith Harley, conductress; Mrs. Ida Berst, associate; George Harley, chaplin; Anna Berst, Marshal; Mae Piatt, Adah; Myrtle Kohler, Ruth; Mrs. Pearl Harley, Esther; Mrs. Minnie Armington, Martha; Mrs. Louisa Zimmerman, Electa; Mrs. Lulu Wallace, Organist; Mrs. Emma Goshorn, Warden; Thomas A. Edgar, Sentinel. This lodge was organized under charter Mar. 5, 1903, by William Conrad,

deputy grand patron.

The present officers of the chapter are Anna Berst, W. M.; H. A. Dye, W. P.; Nettie May Stanley, Asst. Matron; Deta Goshorn, secretary; Fred Berst, treasurer; Edith Harley, Conductor; Edna Hill, assistant; Emma Archibald, chaplin; Chas. Long, Marshal; Emma Goshorn, warden; Rodol Plummer, Secretary; Lulu Wallace, pianist; Parmelia Plummer, Adah; Ida Berst, Ruth; Ina Thomas, Esther; Lizzie Lashway, Martha; Elizabeth Dye, Electa.

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ODD FELLOWS.

Leesburg Lodge No. 432 I. O. O. F. was organized Dec. 23, 1873, under charter attested by Richard Owen, grand master of Grand Lodge of Indiana. For several years meetings were held on the third floor of the bank building. Later on a building which stood on the alley near where the ware room of the R. B. K. hardware now stands was moved to Van Buren street. The lower part was used as a store room and over this the Odd Fellows built a really fine lodge room, the main room frescoed, the wall panels containing frescoed emblems of the dif-

History of Leesburg.

156

ferent degrees. This room was occupied until the fire of 1889, when it burned. After the fire the lodge room was moved to the upper room of the old Moon drug store.

When William Zimmerman, a prominent and enthusiastic Odd Fellow, proposed that the lodge build a room over the brick store room which he was erecting, his proposition was accepted and in the course of a year the new lodge room was dedicated amid much rejoicing.

Leesburg lodge now has a fine hall. The walls are nicely papered and decorated with emblems of the order. The charter members are: J. E. Stephenson, Benjamin Burkett, G. D. Vincent, J. J. Wood, William Gunter, Paul Boehm, John Armington and Absalom Clark. The first officers installed were J. E. Stephenson, N. G.; J. J. Wood, V. G.; J. D. Vincent, Rec-Sec.; B. Burkett, Fin-Secretary; Ross Beatty, Chaplin; S. N. Garrett, Cond'r; Wm. Zimmerman, R. S. S.; T. G. Berst, L. S. S.; William Archibald, R. S. N. G.; John Armington, L. S. N. G.; E. D. French, R. S. V. S.; A. B. French, L. S. V. G. Present

officers are: J. C. Hill, N. G.; Harry Beatty, V. G.; Chas Jordan, secretary; Fred Berst, Fin-secretary; W. H. Berst, Treas.

The Encampment. — Leesburg Camp I. O. O. F. No. 149 was organized May 15, 1877, under charter attested by Grand Master John Morgan. The Encampment records were burned at the time of the fire, so that we have no record of the organization, but from the best authority we can obtain the charter members were William Zimmerman, T. G. Berst, E. D. Peck, Frank Diehl, B. Burkett, Irvin Watt, William Harlin and J. W. Armstrong. Watt, Harlan and Armstrong were transferred from Hackelmon Encampment at Warsaw.

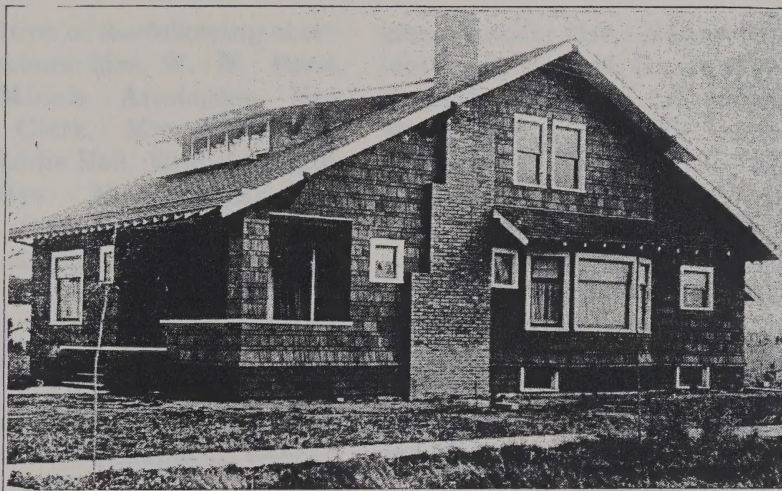
The Leesburg Camp is at present in a flourishing condition, almost every member of the subordinate lodge being a member of the camp. The present officers are C. P., M. F. Wallace; H. P., W. B. Wallace; Rec-Scribe, S. N. Garret; Fin-Scribe, F. W. Berst.

* * *

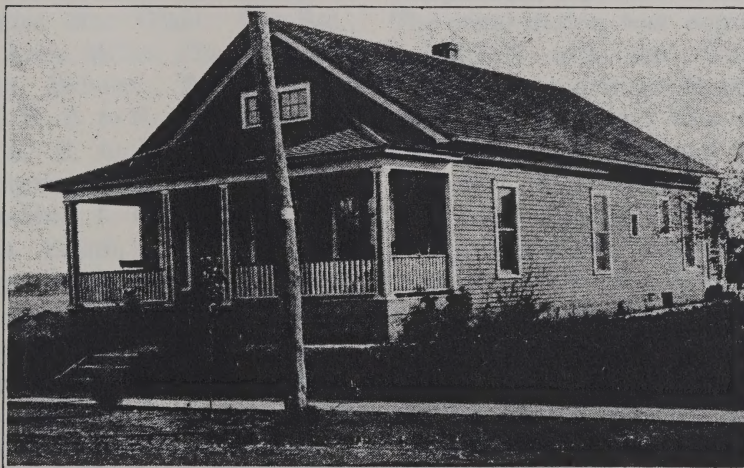
REBEKAH LODGE

Evergreen lodge of Rebekahs No. 484 was organized April 16, 1895, under charter attested by M. A. Chapman, Grand Master,

In Wallace Addition



Home of H. A. Dye



Home of Editor F. J. Gibbard

History of Leesburg.

157

on petition of the following charter members: Mrs. W. H. Berst, Miss Minnie Armington, Mrs. Annie Clark, Mrs. Dora Hall, Mrs. Addie Hall, Mrs. Alice Miller, Mrs. Meta Berst, Mrs. T. G. Berst, Miss Mae Diehl, Mrs. Sarah Armstrong, Mrs. Annie Diehl, Mrs. W. H. Clay, Mrs. D. R. Behner, E. F. Diehl, T. G. Berst, S. N. Garret, B. F. Clark, S. Armington, W. F. Armington, W. H. Clay, Bert Hall, J. W. Armstrong and D. R. Behner.

The first officers, installed April 26, 1895, by George Ogden, deputy grand master, were Dora Hall, N. G.; Mrs. Ida Berst, V. S.; Miss Mae Diehl, Rec-Sec.; Mrs. Alice Miller, Fin-Sec.; Mrs. Jennie Behner, Treas.; Fred Berst, R. S. to N. G.; Mrs. Addie Hall, L. S. to N. G.; Mrs. Ida Armington, R. S. to V. G.; Mrs. Phebe Hall, L. S. to V. G.; Mrs. Emma Smith, warden; Mrs. Nancy Armington, conductress; Mrs. Annie Diehl, Chaplin; Mrs. Nettie Bortz, I. G.

The present officers are Miss Lillie Gearhart, N. G.; Eva Armington, V. G.; Mrs. Permelia Plummer, Fin-Sec.; Mrs. Edna Hill, Rec-Sec.; Mrs. Sarah Armstrong, Treas.; Mrs. Blanch Wal-

lace, Chaplin; Mrs. Nancy Armington, R. S. to N. G.; Mrs. Ida Berst, L. S. to N. G.; Byrd Summy, R. S. to V. G.; Fay Baxter, L. S. to V. S.; Mrs. Chas. Jordan, warden; Mrs. Mosier, O. G.; Mrs. Nettie Bortz, I. G.

There was at one time quite a flourishing Grange lodge in Leesburg, but owing to the fact that they could not secure a permanent place in which to meet they ceased to hold regular meetings and finally dropped out entirely.

* * *

READING CLUB.

The Leesburg Reading Club was partially organized in 1905-06. The organization was completed in 1907-08 with the following officers and members: President, Mrs. Edyth Harley; Vice President, Mrs. Ina Thomas; Secretary, Mrs. Minnie Byrer; Treasurer, Mrs. Myrtle Kohler; Mesdames Nettie May Stanley, Ilah Irvin, Jennie Hunter, Ada Hearn, Emma Henwood, Clara Gawthrop, Bertha McKibben, Lula Fermier, Clara Irvine, Mae Graham, Mary Hunter, Misses Sallie Long, Mae Tumbleson, Lulu Armstrong, Edythe Stephenson, Flora Beane. Program committee.—Mrs. Irvin, Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Fermier, and

History of Leesburg.

158

Mrs. Harley. Subject for the year—Character Study.

The officers and members for the present year—1914-15—are: Pres., Mrs. C. O. Gawthrop; Vice President, Mrs. John Harley; Secretary, Lulu Wallace; Treasurer, Mrs. H. A. Dye; Misses Eva Armington, Sarah E. Long, Ethel Murray, Bertha Stanton, Mesdames Belle Ayres, Herbert Dye, S. N. Byrer, P. G. Fermier, V. H. Gawthrop, C. A. Gawthrop, Dale Metz, John Harley, Irvin Hearn, J. C. Hill, F. D. Irvine, C. H. Murray, W. H. Stanley, C. E. Thomas, Lulu Wallace, A. R. Kinsey. Non-Resident members, Mesdames Jennie Hunter, W. R. Wood, W. C. Fried, Fred Morrice, Chas. McKibben, Mary Hunter. Program Committee: Miss Long, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Kinsey, Mrs. Hearn, Mrs. Ayres. Topic for the year, Civil Government, Shakespeare, Eugenics.

The club federated in 1909 and joined the general federation in 1912. The results to be obtained by the club as set forth in their preamble are: "Believing that home and society require of the women of today a fuller knowledge of religious, educational, political and other topics, and

that interchange of thought and unity of purpose will stimulate our menial growth." The attainment of these objects was the purpose of the club in its organization and they have certainly been eminently successful.

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KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

By concent of the Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of Indiana a charter was granted to St. Leon Lodge No. 192, K. of P., on May 17, 1887, by request of the following persons: C. O. Thomas, D. L. Kemper, D. B. Ford, H. Sterling, Chas. E. Wood, W. A. Beane, H. L. Berst, A. G. Carpenter, A. J. Thomas, S. S. Thomas, W. H. Bryer, S. M. Byrer, C. E. Long, M. J. Long, H. M. Kirken-dall, J. D. Shipley, Wm. Baer, Wm. Boggess, A. Robinson, W. Powell and G. B. Anglin.

Following are the first officers of St. Leon lodge. They were installed by C. L. Bartol, district deputy, assisted by members of Forest lodge No. 46 of Warsaw, and Lakeview Lodge No. 164 of Silver Lake: C. C., C. O. Thomas; V. C., W. A. Beane; Prel., W. H. Byrer; K. of R. and S., C. E. Wood; M. of F., W. H. Wood; M. of Ex., A. J. Thomas; M. at A.,

A. S. Carpenter; I. G., H. N. Kirkendall; O. G., M. J. Long. The present officers are: C. C., J. Plummer; V. C., Dr. Thomas; Prel., Claude Stookey; K. of R. and S., A. W. Rosbrugh; M. of W., C. Holderman; M. of F., J. E. Droud; M. of Ex., J. A. Irvine; M. at A., Edward Thomas; I. G., R. C. Beagle; O. G., C. F. Diehl; Janitor, W. F. Armington.

December 31, 1889, K. of P. hall was destroyed by fire. In the year 1890 the lodge had the opportunity of building on the Garret building, where they erected a nice comfortable hall. That hall was occupied for seventeen years. At the end of that time the membership had increased so much that the hall was no longer large enough to accomodate the members. In 1907 the opportunity was offered to build over the R. B. & K. hardware store and a large commodius hall was built with neat anti rooms, -water closet, and other conveniences. The old hall which adjoins the new one on the east was made into a splendid banquet hall with a kitchen on the north.

K. of P. lodge at the present time is in a flourishing condition,

its membership being considerable over one hundred in good standing. Of the charter members who were initiated twenty-six years ago into St. Leon lodge there remains A. J. Thomas, S. M. Byrer, G. B. Anglin, Willis Boggess, W. Powell and M. J. Long.

* * *

PYTHIAN SISTERS

Leone Lodge No. 112, Pythian Sisters, was instituted April 10, 1895, M. Josie Nelson, grand chief. The first officers were M. E. C., Caddie Zimmerman; E. S. Valerie Brussell; E. J., Myrtle Kohler; M. of T., Gertrude Spencer; M. of R. and C., Emma Rosbrugh; M. of F., Nancy Beane P. of T., Alice Watt; G. of O. T., Hattie Bogges; P. C., May Berst. Charter Members—Caddie Zimmerman, Valarie Brussel, Myrtle Kohler, Gertrude Spencer, Emma Rosbrugh, Nancy Beane, Alice Watt, Hattie Boggess, and May Berst. The present officers are: M. E. C., Belle Ayres; E. S., Nettie May Stanley; E. J., Mary Metz; M. of T., Hazel Beatty; M. of R. and C., Hettie Holderman; M. of F., Minnie Bryer; P. of T., Jessie Ervin; G. of O. T., Vera Frederickson; P. C., Myrtle Curry; I. O. Grace Bridenthall.

History of Leesburg.

160

MODERN WOODMEN.

Leesburg Camp of Modern Woodmen was organized in 1898. The camp now has a membership of 25 members, with the following elective officers: Council, C. C. Lashway; Adviser, William Baugher; Clerk, C. F. Jordan. The members keep up their dues, but at the present time are not holding regular meetings,

* * *

CHURCH AID SOCIETIES.

Last, but not least, are the aid societies of Leesburg. The Christian Church aid society, under the direction of their president, Mrs. I. H. Hall, has been of great service and encouragement to the church by the loyalty and deep interest exhibited in their earnest labors for the church. Since Mrs. Hall moved from town we understand the society is not holding meetings at the present time.

The M. E. aid society has for years been the backbone of the church financially. If any improvements are to be made on church or parsonage or any shortage to be met, the aid society has been looked to to untie the Gordon knot and meet the emergency. Under the direction of

the present president, Mrs. Minnie Byrer, the society has increased in members and the attendance at their semi-monthly meetings. Too much can not be said commendatory to the energy and efficiency of the Leesburg M. E. Church Aid Society.

* * *

THE SOLDIER BOYS OF PLAIN TOWNSHIP.

A Tribute to Our Soldier Boys by Rev. Tommy Neal, published by request.

Here's to the health of everyone

Who wore the Union blue,
Who fought beneath the starry flag—
Those men so brave and true,
Who drove the traitors to the wall
And in the bloody strife
Came out victorious over all
And saved the nation's life.

Oh! While we live we'll hymn their
praise

And tell this story o'er,
Of how they bravely, nobly fought
In those dark days of yore.
To generations yet unborn
We'll hand the story down,
And men, till earth's remotest morn,
Shall hear of their renown.

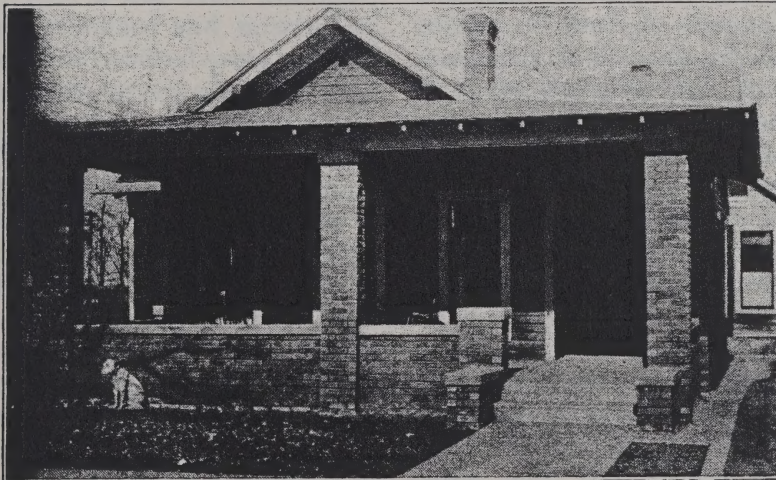
Long life to them! May Heaven smile
On those who linger here,
And may their last days be their best,
All filled with peace and cheer,
And in the end, God grant that they
May each victorious be,
And pass triumphantly away
With shouts of victory.

Forty-nine years have passed away since the close of the most terrific struggle, on almost numberless battle fields, in the history of this nation, or any other,

Two Pretty Leesburg Homes



The George Thomas Residence



Home of O. D. Ervin

History of Leesburg.

162

tory of the world than those assembled during the great civil conflict during 1861-65, except it may be the present mobilization of the combined armies of all Europe.

In this great struggle for the perpetuity of the Republic and its free institutions Leesburg and Plain township furnished their full quarto. Regardless of political affiliations they volunteered and went to the front, most of them mere lads who served faithful to the end of the conflict before they had reached their majority.

Fifty Union Soldiers are sleeping their last sleep in Leesburg's beautiful cemetery, 35 of them are our own boys in blue, former residents of Leesburg and its immediate vicinity, as the following roster will show:

J. L. D. Barnett, Co. H 129th Indiana, died May 25, 1865

Edward Parks, 30th Indiana, died July 5, 1868

Thomas Lessig, Co. E 12th Ind., died February 17, 1871

John Watkins, Co. K 74th Indiana, died May 27, 1869

John C. Graham, Co. K 74th Indiana, died August 30, 1869

John Davidson, Co. D 8th Iowa, died December 22, 1862

Samuel K. Starr, 74th Indiana, died

June 16, 1879

Wm. Rosbrugh, Co. B 30th Ind., killed at Stone River, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862

J. Inman, Co. I 12th Indiana

Henry Jeffries, Co. I 30th Ind, died November 31, 1865

J. Roberts, Co I 30th Ind, died July 31, 1865

Uriah Merriman, Co I 30th Ind, died February 17, 1866

N. E. Manville, died January 9, 1872

L. P. McDivitt, Co I 12th Indiana, died June 1, 1882

Charles Attubury, Co B 30th Indiana

Thomas Edgar, Co G 48th Ind, died August 6, 1878

John Shelley, Co K 74th Indiana, died July 4, 1881

John Haggerty, Co C 1st Virginia, died December 6, 1888

Adam Errick, Co C 13th Indiana, died March 19, 1888

Henry Taylor, Co A 74th Ind, died October 29, 1888

George Armstrong, Co I 30th Indiana died January 24, 1888

Orlando Rankin, Co K 74th Indiana, died February 24, 1891

E. Reynolds, Co G 129th Indiana

G. H. Martin, Co K 124th Ind, died March 25, 1888

J. A. Campfield, 12th Ind, died July 8th, 1865

John Rippey, Co I 74th Indiana, died October 16, 1875

Chas. Caty, Co C 99th Ind, died Feb 5th, 1888

Wm. Roberts, Co B 30th Ind, killed in battle at Stone River Dec 31, 1862

M. B. Blaine, Co K 74th Ind, killed in battle at Jonesborough Sept 1, 1863

D. K. Brown, Co C 118 and Co A 153 Ind, died May 4, 1901

History of Leesburg.

163

Wm. Mathews, Co E 12th and Co E 30th Ind, died December 31, 1899

Wilson Catey, died December 21, 1864

J. A. Sanderson, Co E 12th Ind, died January 3, 1907

James H. Stephenson, Co K 74th Ind

Wm. Graham, Co K 74th Ind, died at Galliton, Texas, Jan 17, 1863

Rodulph Ringgenberg, Co E 30th Ind, died Nov 23, 1908

Wm. Leazenby, Co D 152nd Ind

George Sharp, Co E 48th Ind

Mathew Rippey, Co I 10th Iowa

James A. Rippey, Co I 74th Ind

Henry Clayton, Co A 74th Ind also member of the 6th U. S. infantry during the Mexican war

Dr. J. H. Long, died June 31, 1887

Daniel D. Meyers, 47th Ind Vol Co D died June 14, 1909

Preston W. Brown, 4th Mich Cal Co I died April 20, 1910

C. C. Beane, Co I 74th Ind, died Feb 21, 1911

W. H. Clay, Co A 13th Ohio died Mar 2nd, 1913

L. A. Noel, died Jan 16, 1887

J. H. Andrews, Co A 13th Ind, died February 20, 1913

Wm. P. Stevenson, Musician 29th Ind Band

Webb Rosbrugh, Co I 30th Ind, died March 31, 1914.

Among the few old soldiers of 1861-65 who yet remain on the shores of time in Leesburg and Plain township are:

A. B. Stookey, who when but 19 years old enlisted, Sept. 19, 1861, as a private in Co. M 41st Ind.

Cav. 2nd Div., served three years and received an honorable discharge Oct. 4, 1864.

Curtis C. Farber was not quite 17 years old when he enlisted, Sept. 8, 1863, in Co. A 12th Ohio Calvary for three years orduring the war. At the close of the war he was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 4, 1865.

G. W. Craven enlisted Sept. 9, 1861, in Co. A. 48th Ohio; was honorably discharged Dec. 6, 1862.

Andrew J. Meek enlisted in Co. C, 5th Ind. Calvary in 1861; mustered out in 1865.

Eli Sawyer enlisted June 1, 1861, in the 54th Illinois Regt, Co. E, served three years and re-enlisted at the reorganization of the same Regt. and company in 1864; mustered out Oct. 15, 1865.

John Oswalt enlisted in Co. K 74th Ind. Feb. 1864; was mustered out in August 1865, is now a resident of Leesburg.

William Callison, enlisted in Co. I 74th Ind. in August 1862. Was on guard at the theater in Washington at the time Lincoln was shot. Mustered out of the service at Washington June 31, 1865.

Edward Rankin enlisted in Co. K 74th Ind. Aug. 18, 1862. Was

History of Leesburg.

164

wounded at Chickamauga. Was mustered out in June 1865; is now in his 84th year.

J. W. Armstrong enlisted as a private in Co. I 30th Ind. Sept. 24, 1861. Re-enlisted in Co. D 152nd Ind. in Feb. 1865. Served as fourth duty sargeant. Was mustered out at Charlestown, W. Va., Aug. 28, 1865.

The following Boys who went to the front from Leesburg and vicinity in 1861-65 are still among the living, but are not citizens of Leesburg or vicinity now:

Orrin Watts of the 12th Ind; Edward Barlow of the 12th Ind., also of the 74th Ind; residents of Goshen, Ind. Frank M. Jeffries of Co. I 30th Ind. is now at Ira, Iowa. John Beagle, 129th Ind; Henry Graham, 138th and 155th

Ind; J. E. Stephenson, 74th Ind; Amberson Jones 74th Ind., are residents of Warsaw. Jacob Holderman and George Himes Ohio calvary.

Leesburg and Plain Township may well be proud of the gallant band of boys who went to the front at their country's call in those dark days of war, and we believe that every good, law-abiding citizen is proud to have it said of them they live in Leesburg, the grand old time queen of the prairies.

When the light of day is gone

From the cozy town of Leesburg,

The shadows deepen on the lawn

And sleepy are the eyes in Leesburg.

The sire wipes his glasses blurred,

Reads a chapter from the Word,

Then kneels down and thanks the Lord

That he lives in Leesburg.

LEESBURG BAND

The Leesburg Cornet Band was first organized early in the spring of 1860, with John Lathrop of Warsaw as instructor. The members of the first organization as near as we can recollect were James Murphy, B flat cornet; Daniel Banta, cornet; Alexander Archibald, tuba; George Bishop, tenor; Cyrus Piatt, tenor drum; J. W. Armstrong, bass drum. The others we cannot recall, but there was fifteen pieces in the band and every member bought his own instrument. The only instrument used in the first band that is in use today is the bass drum owned by J. W. Armstrong, and after fifty-four years of service is a good drum yet.

The band was organized for the campaign of 1860, and in less than three months under the instructions of Mr. Lathrop, who was a careful instructor and a splendid leader, was ready for business. As bands were not then as numerous as at the present time the Leesburg band was kept busy until the close of the campaign. They had a fine band wagon built by Chas. Knight that seated comfortably the entire membership, at a cost of

three hundred dollars. Most of their earnings, which was quite large, went for music, instruction and the band wagon. At that time it was considered the best band in the county and was sought after by the different political parties of that lively campaign. This first Leesburg band kept up its organization until some time in 1861, when so many of its members enlisted in the army that it was obliged to disband.

After the war the band was reorganized, in 1867, under the direction of a Frenchman whose name we cannot recall. He too was a fine instructor who understood his business perfectly and in an incredibly short time Leesburg again had a No. 1 band that maintained their organization for several years, but finally on account of some dropping out and others moving away it disbanded. Some of the members of the band of 1860 joined the second reorganization, namely, Murphy, Banta, Bishop, Piatt and Armstrong. Some of the most prominent new members were Chas. White, Ed Archibald and W. P. Stephenson. Mr. White proved to be a fine cornet-

History of Leesburg.

166

ist and for a long time was leader of the band.

The present Leesburg Silver Cornet band was organized in 1902, with Charles F. Ross as instructor and leader. Quite a number of the original members have dropped out but their places have been filled by others, so that the band has been kept in good working order for twelve years and is today one of the prominent bands in the county.

The present members are: Chas. F. Ross, leader, solo, B flat cornet; W. R. Hall, solo, B flat cornet; C. M. Long, cornet; Fred Hall, tenor and cornet; Merl Pound, tenor; Merl Scoles, valve trombone; Harry Beatty, slide trombone; M. F. Wallace, slide trombone; Millard Stookey, baritone; Victor Wallace, tuba; Ferris Baugher, tenor drum; Lauren Hall, clarinet; P. M. Bridenthall, alto; Victor Mock, coronet; J. W. Cary, bass drum.

The Band for several years has been giving open air concerts on Saturday evenings during the summer, drawing large crowds from town and the surrounding country to enjoy the music and spend a pleasant hour with friends and neighbors. For these concerts the business men pay a stipulated sum.

Within the past few years a fine circular band stand has been erected in the business section of town, with roof, electric lights and seat room enough for all members of the band. It is built on top of a large post about twelve feet from the ground, and is reached by a ladder. On Saturday evenings when the electric lights flash out their brilliant rays and the stand is filled with band boys it makes a very pretty and attractive appearance of which the citizens of Leesburg are certainly proud.

EARLY HISTORY OF OSWEGO.

The present village of Oswego is situated on the site of a former Indian village which from time immemorial was in possession of the Indians and was included in the Musquabuck reservation. A more picturesque situation could not have been selected by mortal man situated as it is on the banks of the historic Tippecanoe with the limpid waters of the beautiful lake glimmering in the sunlight near by, along whose banks is found the most beautiful scenery that will vie in natural beauty with any in the old world which so many travel to Europe to behold while so as beautiful is here; and just to the west the broad acres of beautiful prairie are spread out to view making a most ideal home for the red man as it does now for the white. After the Indians had given up their reservation and moved west the present village was laid out by Messrs. Willard Barbee and French, in 1837. At the time Oswego was laid out Mr. Barbee and Mr. French owned a large tract of land to the east of the village. They built the first business

room and opened the first store. That building is still standing and is owned by John Pound and used by him as a general store and post office. E. French was put in charge of the store and conducted it for ten years, during which time the firm did a paying business. Mr. French was appointed Indian agent and had charge of the removal of the Indians to their homes in the west.

Dr. Francis Willard was the first physician of Oswego, had a large practice and was well and favorably known throughout the county.

Barbee was among the wealthy men of the times and from a business standpoint and otherwise did much for the growth and betterment of the village he had been party to bringing into existence. It may not be without interest to trace the history of the first business room built in Oswego, which has been used continuously from 1838 to the present time.

Willard & Co. were succeeded by Lysander and James Jacoby. The Jacobys had been competi-

History of Oswego.

168

tors of the Willard Co. They were shrewd business men and at one time considered quite wealthy. They finally sold out and went west and David Denman was next to occupy the room. He was a prominent man in the community and conducted the business in that room for some length of time. We understand he was in business at one time with Summy & Biggs in the old Empire Block in Leesburg.

Mr. Denman was succeeded by M. Clark, a son-in-law of Ezekel French. The business was continued by several others up to 1871, when Eli Wilson put in a stock of groceries and notions. After him came John Beagle, who conducted the business for some time and was followed by John Hower, who was at the old stand for several years. Hower finally sold out and moved to Leesburg, where he did a good business and built a fine brick residence. He was followed by Henry Dorsey. Next came Chas. White, and he was succeeded by John Pound, the present occupant who has carried on business in the old Willard and Barbee store building for twenty-five years. Mr. Pound has been the village

postmaster for years, is ex-trustee of Plain township, also a member of Plain township advisory board. He was prominent in his efforts to secure the beautiful Oswego high school and all along has been active in his efforts to advance the interests of the village of Oswego.

The building now owned by Mr. Pound is the only one left of several that were built and used as business houses in the town. One of those, very similar to the Willard and Barbee building, was erected in the south part of town near where the first flouring mill stood. If we are not mistaken, the Jacoby brothers did business there prior to their removal to the Willard and Barbee room. It was used as a business room up to 1871. It was then owned by the Kuffel Bros. who after a short time sold out and moved to Leesburg and from there to Goshen. This building known for many years as the "Grange Hall" was bought several years ago by John T. Smith and moved to Cripple Gate Heights and used as public hall or amusement room and is now used as a residence by Smith. For some considerable length of time

Oswego's First Business House

Erected in 1838 by Messrs. French and Barbee



**Now John F. Pound's Store
and Postoffice.**

History of Oswego.

169

Oswego had a strong Granger lodge which held its meetings in the rooms above the old store room.

Oswego in an early day was a very pleasant and prosperous business village, second at that time to none in the county, and at one time had aspirations to become the county seat, but like two or three other competing villages in the county failed to secure the prize.

The first flouring mills built in the county were built in Oswego by Messrs. Willard, Barbee and French and at that time the greatest enterprise ever undertaken in Plain Township. In order to secure water enough to run the mill a large dam was built across Grassy Creek, about two miles from Oswego and just below the outlet of Barbee Lake. The outflow was thus reserved and raised the surface of the lake about three feet. The water was conducted by a race to Tippecanoe River at Oswego, at which point the mill was built. This mill was the first and only flouring mill in the county for several years, the next probably being those erected by the Harris Bros. at Monoquet, which were completed in 1844.

The mills were run by the original owners for many years and at one time we believe by Jacoby and McCherry. They did an extensive business, which did much to boom the business interests of Oswego. After several years the big dam across Grassy Creek broke during an excessive rainy season. The dam was rebuilt but later on was again broken, it was thought by parties who were opposed to it on account of the fact that it caused the overflow of a large tract of low land which otherwise would be valuable for agriculture purposes, and as those opposed to the rebuilding of the dam threatened to bring suit for damages rebuilding was abandoned and a new site arranged about one mile down the river from Oswego,

To this new location the old mill building was moved and was run for several years, but finally abandoned on account of the opposition of those whose lands were flooded by water. The old mill building stood until a few years ago when the waters of the river undermined its foundations and it fell to rise no more. The old race can still be traced almost its entire length east from Oswego.

History of Oswego.

170

The only mill now in the village is a feed mill built of cement blocks on the river bank as you go into town from the west. This is owned and operated by G. W. Craven who is enjoying a nice little business.

Oswego at one time had a tannery, run, if we recollect right, in an early day by Mr. McCaffery; a foundry conducted by Christopher Smith (he finally moved to Warsaw where he continued the business until his death); also a hattery, an ashery and several other business enterprises which have almost faded from the memory of its present citizens.

Oswego has had in her time quite a number of men of considerable local note as citizens, among them Squire Elijah Horton who came from the east (probably New York), where he held the office of judge; the Rev. Anderson, for years pastor of the presbyterian church, an excellent and intelligent man and a faithful pastor; Dr. Schoonover, who at one time had large and lucrative practice in that section (he built a fine home in the village but later moved to Warsaw where he attained to a very prominent position as a physician.

Later on account of failing health he moved to California and shortly afterward died); John Brown, who was in business in the old Grange hall after his return from California; Oliver Johnston, who at one time conducted a wagon shop and was for some time justice of the peace; William Gunter was at one time in business in Oswego, has for years been prominent in aiding to advance the interests of the town and the Baptist church of which he has been for a number of years an active member; Dr. Johnston, a prominent physician, lived east of town; Dr. Chandler was a practicing physician there for several years, finally moved to Leesburg and from there he moved to Warsaw where for years before his death he held the position of physician for the county poor; John Beagle at one time a business man in the village, moved to Leesburg and from there to Warsaw, has served the county as auditor for four years; Samuel Roberts carried on the tailoring business in Oswego; Fielding Drake, one of the best boot and shoe makers we ever knew, at one time furnished footwear for

the citizens of Oswego; Roberts and Drake both moved to Leesburg, built homes and carried on business there until their death.

Among other former prominent citizens of the town and vicinity we notice Hains Johnston, Thomas Kirkpatrick, William Cowan and Rev. Kure, all of whom have passed away. The present justice of the peace, Curtis C. Farber, is quite prominent as a citizen of Oswego on account of the official position he has held for several years to his own credit and the entire satisfaction of those with whom he has transacted business.

* * *

OSWEGO CEMETERIES.

The first cemetery in Oswego was located in a little grove on the southeast of the village. At this place, in the early history of the town, quite a number of people were buried, but today one lone grave marks this burial ground of the pioneers of Oswego, attracting the attention and curiosity of those not acquainted with its early history. That lone grave is the grave of William Cowan, one of the first citizens of the town, who was buried there in the year 1838. He was

quite a prominent citizen of the then promising village, a near relative to the Blains and Huffmans of Leesburg and Oswego, and although 76 years have passed since his remains were laid away and the old burial ground has long since been abandoned, loving hearts and willing hands still look after his last resting place and keep it in repair.

This burying ground was abandoned when the mill race from Grassy Creek to Oswego was built. The water passing through it made it unfit for a burying ground.

The second burial place used in the vicinity of the village was located on the farm now owned by Charles Spencer. It was common in the early settlement of the county, before any regular cemeteries were laid out, to bury on the farm of the deceased. Until late years such graves could be seen on the old Jacob Kirken-dall and Samuel Thomas farms and the Hamilton farm, now a part of Winona Park.

This grave yard on the Spencer farm came to be generally used by the people in that vicinity. Twenty years ago there was to be seen stones and pieces of

History of Oswego.

172

of stones laying on the lake shore that had once marked the graves of the dead who had been moved to the present cemetery. It is said that there are graves there yet, but today all traces of the old burying ground have passed away.

Oswego's present cemetery is located just north of the town, on the bank of Tippacano Lake. The ground was donated to the town by Ezekiel French, to be used as a cemetery, a number of years ago. A more beautiful and enchanting situation could not have been selected as a last resting place for the loved ones of that section. We have often stood at the north side of the cemetery and as we looked upon the limpid sparkling waters of the lake with the nicely arranged cemetery in the back ground we felt that it was indeed an ideal spot as a last resting place for the pioneer dead of that village. Days long past by were brought fresh to our memory as we read on the different tomb stones and monuments names of the Wades, Frenches, Whites, Johnstons, Browns and others whose names and faces were familiar in years gone by. It is a beautiful resting

place for the dead and the citizens of Oswego may well be proud of it.

* * *

OSWEGO'S CHURCHES.

The first Presbyterian church in Plain township was organized in Leesburg in 1839, at the home of M. Blain, the grand father of J. C. Blain, now living near Oswego. As a large majority of the members lived nearer to Oswego than Leesburg it was decided to erect the church building at Oswego. (That building is still standing in the town and at present is occupied by B. C. Wable as a residence.) Their first minister was the Rev. Mr. Harmon, who resided in Milford. He officiated as pastor for a few years and resigned. He was succeeded by the Rev. Kerr. He served the church until 1851, at which time he died. After Kerr came the Rev. Anderson, who lived and served the church for many years. During his pastorate the second church was built, on the corner of First and Race streets. Under his care the church flourished and many were added to its numbers, but later on some moved away, others died and the Civil War coming on

Oswego's Pretty School House



**Erected in 1908 Under the Supervision of
O. D. Ervin as Township Trustee.**

created quite a diversity of opinion among the members. The Rev. Anderson was a staunch union man and gave to the government an unqualified support. This caused descensions in the church and the church was greatly weakened, and finally the pastor resigned and none succeeded him. After standing unused for some fifteen years the building and grounds were sold and the organization was abandoned. The last board of trustees were Elkana Huffman, Alexander Patterson and David Bussing.

The Advents had at one time quite a strong organization in Oswego. A man by the name of Miller came there and preached the Second Coming of Christ, setting the advent for June 8, 1843. It is said that many were so thoroughly convinced the advent would be on that day that they abandoned all secular affairs and had white ascension robes in readiness in which to arise and meet the Lord in the air. (Had they paid more attention to what the Lord said concerning his second advent they would not have been deceived). The preaching of Miller created quite a sensation and many who did

not claim to believe Miller were yet a little in doubt as to whether there might not be something in it after all. We well recollect that when the day set for the advent came a most terrific storm of wind, rain and hail, accompanied by the most vivid flashes of lightning and terrible peals of thunder came up and some began to think that the day of judgment had really come. But after a few hours the storm passed and a rainbow showed brightly upon the receding storm cloud in the east and the old world kept on its rounds as usual. Miller made quite a number of converts in Oswego, among them Mr. Willard, one of the original business men of the place, who did much for the village and had contributed liberally to the building of the Second Presbyterian Church and for that reason evidently the Adventists for some time laid claim to the church building, but upon investigation they found that as it had been built by Presbyterians it was legally their property and they dropped their claim.

There was also at one time a Universalist organization in the

History of Oswego.

174

village, but they never had a place of worship although some of their ministers preached there in recent years. Among them was Rev. Chaplin, a smart, intelligent man and a fine speaker.

★ ★ ★

OSWEGO BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Oswego Baptist Church was organized in the winter of 1839 with twelve members. In January, 1840, a revival meeting was held and some thirty members were added to the church. At the close of that meeting arrangements were made to erect a house of worship, but some five years, or nearly that, elapsed before the building was completed and ready for dedication, which took place on the first Thursday in February, 1845.

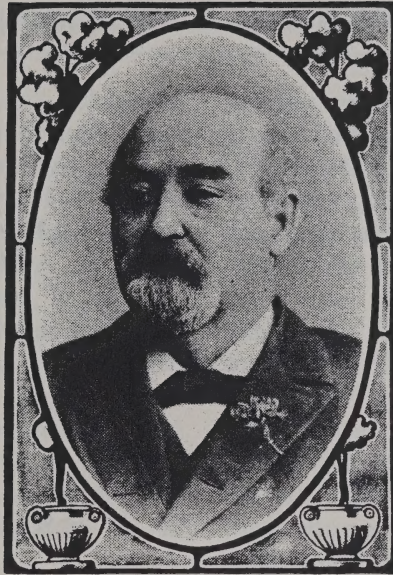
This church organization was received into the Baptist Association, then known as the Bethel Association, afterward as the Northern, and still later as the Elkhart Association, Oct. 17, 1840.

In 1868 there was held in the Baptist Church at Oswego a joint meeting of the Elkhart and Huntington Associations. At that meeting a part of the territory belonging to each was taken and

a new association was organized known as the Fort Wayne Association. During the first ten years existence of the Oswego Baptist Church four new churches went out from the parent church, one at Wolf Lake, on Nov. 14, 1840; one at the home of John Powell at the west end of Turkey Creek prairie, Dec. 17, 1840; one at Syracuse, June 19, 1841; and one at the home of a Mr. Moore in Washington township, April 19, 1845.

The first missionary sent out by the Oswego Baptist Church was the Rev. Noah Dilly, Oct. 20, 1848. He was sent as a missionary to the Indians. The Baptist Church at Oswego during the first ten years licensed five men to preach the gospel; namely, Solomon Wedge, Aug. 5, 1840; G. A. Roice, Nov. 27, 1841; John Spear, March 22, 1848.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1865 with David Hunt as superintendent. The church now has a membership of ninety-nine. Average attendance at Sabbath School during the year 1913 was 123. During the 65 years since the Baptist Church was organized 28 men have served it as pastor; namely,



C. C. BEANE

For Many Years the Village Blacksmith in Leesburg



Tippecanoe Lake, Where the Old Club House Stood

Tippecanoe Lake Resorts.

175

Mr. Martin, Stedman Chaplain, Mr. Barnes, David French, Enos French, Abner Denman, James Maxwell, Mr. Carr, L. Wilder, R. H. Cook, Lenard McLeod, Mr. Lathman, F. Moro, D. W. Sanders, W. S. Kent, L. B. McKinley, G. C. Graham, Fred W. Hart, J. K. Hart, J. W. Porter, C. S. Winans, C. G. Rodarmel, D. B. Rechard, George Lockhart, J. C. F. Sherrich, C. A. Leamon, T. E. Covinton, A. A. Kay. The present pastor is the Rev. A. J. Unthank.

* * *

TIPPECANOE LAKE RESORTS.

Tippecanoe Lake, laying just north east of Oswego, has of late years gained quite a reputation as a summer resort. Years ago many lived and died in this vicinity who never saw Tippecanoe Lake, while to-day hundreds of people flock there every season to spend their vacation along the banks of this beautiful inland lake.

About thirty-five years ago the first place for resort purposes was built here by Eli Summy and others from Leesburg, as a place to which they could go for a fishing outing. It was used for that purpose for many years. Fishing

parties were made up and would go out to the "Club House," as it was called, and spend a week or more gathering members of the finny tribe. Later on others came from a distance and made the club house their headquarters. This was the first move towards the establishment of a resort on the south side of Tippecanoe. The old club house is still in existence, but has been moved from its original site on the mound a short distance to the east, and to-day may be seen scores of names cut in its walls by those who occupied it in days gone by. Some parties in later years rented land on the lake shore east of the club house, but as the people in that vicinity objected to it as rather disorderly it was abandoned.

Soon after G. W. Gregg, of Marion, Silas Adams, of Portland, Chas. Spencer and George Smith, who had been camping for several years on the north side, thought it would be a good proposition to purchase land on the south side of the lake. They formed a company, electing Mr. Gregg trustee. A strip of land was purchased of Andrew Rea and laid out in lots, laying the

Tippecanoe Lake Resorts.

176

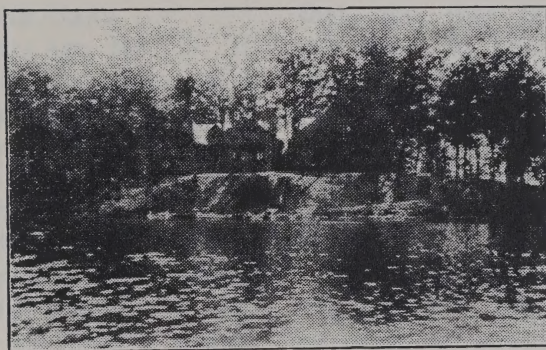
foundation for a beautiful summer resort.

The next season Mr. Gregg built what is now known as Stony Ridge hotel. His son built on the lot east of him and Mr. Adams built to the west. These are all built of stone, good substantial buildings. Most of these lots were soon sold and other cottages went up quite rapidly. Subsequently Mr. Adams bought the fruit farm and laid out the entire lake front in lots. In several places he has drove flowing wells for the use of cottage owners. A majority of the lots along the lake front at Cripple-gate Heights and Pleasant View have been sold and good substantial cottages have been erected on them, besides quite a number which have been built on lots back from the lake front. Five or six good roomy houses have been erected at Government Point. In connection with these resorts there is a good grocery store, a bakery, also a large steam boat and gasoline launches for pleasure trips around the lake, and no more beautiful, natural scenery is to be found anywhere than on a trip around Tippecanoe. In fact you can find there all that

goes to make it a pleasant place to spend a few weeks during hot weather.

We understand that it is contemplated, sooner or later to build a driveway along the entire lake front, which will put Cripple-gate, Pleasant View and Government Point among the most accessible pleasure resorts in Northern Indiana.

About thirty years ago, W. L. Standish, a wealthy Pittsburg manufacturer, for several years, spent his vacations at the east end of the lake as you pass through the narrows, but as we understand, he built no cottages and made his headquarters at the home of Capt. B. F. James. While there he built a large steam boat for his own private use. John Mock, now of Warsaw, was captain, engineer, fireman and crew during the stay of Mr. Standish. When he ceased to come the steamer was moved to Webster lake, but was finally brought back to Tippecanoe, enlarged and improved and is now owned and operated by Capt. George Smith, making regular trips back and forth across the lake.



Stony Ridge Hotel

Along Tippecanoe River Near Oswego



Tippecanoe Lake Resorts.

177

FAIR OAKS.

Several years ago Mr. W. H. Jones bought a plot of ground of H. H. Dorsey, located at the west end of Tippecanoe lake, generally known as Oswego lake. Here Mr. Jones built a cottage for himself, but the beauty and quiet of the place soon attracted the attention of others who were pleased with the location and desired to purchase lots.

Mr. Jones finally concluded to lay off his land in lots and sell them. Four or five cottages have already been put up and more are contemplated. "Fair Oaks," the name given to his place by Mr. Jones, is beautifully located on high ground in the midst of a fine oak grove, which no doubt suggested the name of the place. There is not a prettier place on the lake than Fair Oaks.

FRENCH'S LANDING.

What is known as French's Landing is located at the west end of Tippecanoe proper. Some years ago David French built a cottage, or rather a house quite large and commodious, at this point. Here himself and wife spent their summers, and before cottages were built at Cripple Gate, and for some time after

that, too, they boarded people who came to the lake from a distance. At one time French's was quite a popular place for holding Sunday School and other picnic parties, as it was a pretty place and could be conveniently reached.

The first cottages on the north side of the lake were built by Orrin D. Ervin and Jordan Becknell in 1895, and were located on the bluff nearly opposite to Cripple Gate. They rented the land from John Noel. This was at one time one of the most pleasant locations on the lake, being well supplied with excellent mineral springs. There are no cottages at this place at the present time, but during the last year or two there has been some talk of a sanitarium or health resort being established here.

SCHADT'S LANDING.

At this landing the late J. F. Schadt bought quite a large tract of land and established what he called the "Fancy Fruit Farm," where he raised the very finest of fruit and strawberries. Mrs. Schadt still looks after the fruit growing.

FRAZIER'S LANDING.

For many years before resorts

Tippecanoe Lake Resorts.

178

were thought of along the lake Frazier's Landing was a popular camping place for transient fishing parties. The land here is but little above the surface of the lake and the water is quite shallow for some distance from shore, affording an excellent place for bathing. Here Charles J. Buchanan and Frank Flanners, proprietors of an undertaking establishment in Indianapolis, purchased land of P. M. Thompson. Mr. Buchanan erected a fine stone residence a short distance back from the lake, an ideal place for a summer home, and here the Buchanan family spend most of the summers. Mr. Flanners, who died some months ago, built a frame cottage. He spent his vacations here for several years, but finally sold out to Fred Day, who still owns the property and is a regular summer visitor there.

KALORAMA.

Kalorama, lying to the east of the Buchanan place, is no doubt the largest and most pleasant resort on the lake. The land was bought from Mr. Violet of Goshen by parties from Alexandria, who formed what is known as the Kalorama Resort Co., who

plotted the ground and sold off the lots, and in a short time a fine healthy resort was established. Kalorama is an unique place for a resort, being built in the midst of a natural forest on rolling ground and abounding with flowing springs of the purest water. It certainly is one of the most healthy resorts in Northern Indiana. Kalorama has a hotel, but it has not been opened this season.

WALKER'S LANDING.

Walker's Landing is owned by G. W. Walker, who also owns a large farm lying adjacent to the lake. Some time since he laid out lots on which several cottages have been built, making a pleasing addition to the resorts along the north side of the lake.

BLACK'S LANDING.

Black's Landing is owned by Ben Black, who also owns a large farm running down to the lake. Several cottages have been built here. A good grocery store and ice house are located at this place which supply all the resorts on on that side of the lake.

EARLY HISTORY OF MONOQUET

Monoquet, Monoquet, the dear old place,
The home of our childhood days,
Those days of sunshine and butterfly
chase,
And all those winsome childlike plays.

How sweet their memory still,
Those happy days of youth gone by;
They still with joy my old heart thrill,
But sometimes bring a sigh.

We yet can see the old mill race
And roaring dam near by,
Hear the shouts of the boys at the old
swimming place,
As they splutter and splash; how the
waters fly.

And the river bridge where oft we
crouched,
With fish pole in our hand,
Where cat fish we caught with many an
ouch
As the tormented horns would run in
our hand.

In it's cemetery on the quiet river shore
The best and kindest of fathers was
laid
With hearts by grief made heavy and
sore,
As the last farewells were said.

Monoquet's business days are ore, still-
ed the dam's sullen roar;
It's tannery and woollen mills are gone
at last,
It's merry sounding mill wheels turn no
more,
Save in the memories of the past.

Monoquet like Oswego, is loca-
ted on the site of a former Indian
village. The red man of the for-
est, the true sons of nature, most
certainly had a fine idea of the
beautiful in nature in selecting
their village homes. A more

beautiful, picturesque location
for a village could not have been
made than that of the Indian
villages of Monoquet and Oswe-
go. And while the Indian ex-
hibited a love for the beautiful
and picturesque in nature they
also showed a keen appreciation
of the utility connected with their
choice in locating their village
site. Monoquet, located as it is
on the bluff on the north side of
the Tippecanoe river, was a com-
paratively healthy location, the
river furnished an ample supply
of fish, the dense forest just to
the west abounded with all sorts
of wild game, while just a short
distance to the north the open
prairie furnished plenty of ground
for fields of Indian corn. Adapt-
ed as it was to the pleasure and
benefit of the red man it was
equally so to the early white
settlers, who succeeded the Indian
in possession of it.

In the early forties the Harris
Brothers (Van Rensselaer and
Frederick Harris) of South Bend
bought land at Monoquet. The
rapidly increasing population of
the county demanded flouring
mills of larger capacity than those

History of Monoquet.

180

that existed at that time and Monoquet, situated on the State road on Tippecanoe river, was at that time one of the best locations, if not the best, in the county at which to build a water power of sufficient capacity to run a large flouring mill and other manufactories that people began to feel the need of. A smaller grist mill had been built at Oswego and a mill was also built at a point on Tippecanoe river a mile and a half up the river east of Monoquet, but this, as we recollect it, was a saw mill. With it might be a corn cracker attached. That mill was built about the time Leesburg was laid out and was used to cut lumber for the frame buildings that were then being built in Leesburg.

The Harris Brothers were stirring, energetic men who possessed the nerve and spirit of enterprise which was required to make a success of any enterprise that they might undertake. They saw the opportunity to engage in a good paying business and embraced it at once. The country needed the mills and other manufactories and as that day water power was the only available one by which to obtain power those who

wished to engage in that line of business were compelled to go where power might be had, and there was no better prospect for the building of such a power, none as centrally located, and none as easily reached at that time as on Tippecanoe at Monoquet.

As we have said, the Harris Brothers, seeing the opportunity to build up a good business, entered into the enterprise with a vim that meant success. In 1842 or '43 a dam was built across Tippecanoe river where it turns to the south just west of the State road and a mill race was cut just south of the dam running west half or three quarters of a mile. Along this race was first the tannery, next the flouring mills, then the saw mill and last the woolen mills. All of them were built on the south side of the race. The saw mill was built first and lumber sawed out for a covering, and later on the timber for the flouring mill, the tannery and woolen mills. The flouring mills were quite large—four stories high besides the attic next to the roof. The wheat bins were in the second and third stories above the burr floor. The

wheat was elevated with a block and tackle or something of that sort attached to a beam that projected out from the peak of the roof. To this was attached a chain with a grab hook at the end. The farmers would drive up to the door, pull down the chain, hook it around a sack of wheat and the miller would raise it and pull it in at the door above. The grist wheat was taken in on the burr floor and the merchant wheat was pulled to the upper floors and by spouts brought from the bins above to the burrs below. On the east side of the mill a leanto was built over the flume and a nice room was fitted up with brick floor, a big box stove and two or three bunks for the millers and those who would have to stop over night before they could get their grist, which was quite often the case. They would bring their lunch baskets with sometimes enough for three meals or more. At times there would be five or six to stay over night at one time. Upon such occasions they had really a good sociable time, often forming new acquaintances and relating stories of exploits and personal experiences incident to the lives of

earlier settlers, hair-breadth escapes from hostile Indians, thrilling accounts of narrow escapes from the wounded buck who stood at bay, the exciting bear hunt and the nip and tuck fight with the savage wild boar, while they ate their lunch or parched corn on top of the big stove.

We well recollect those times and have spent many a pleasant hour in the old mill room as we listened with rapt attention and interest to these (to us) truly wonderful exploits until to our youthful mind they were among the bravest men the world ever knew. And they were brave men, brave pioneers who in the late twenties and early thirties had faced the dangers and had endured the trials and hardships of a frontier life, some twenty years before, and at that time were middle aged men, before whose sturdy blows the forests were giving away and prairie and forest were being made to blossom as the rose.

The Harris flouring mills some years later were destroyed by fire. Subsequently the old mill site was purchased by Mr. Shull, who erected a good mill at the old place. This mill was run by

History of Monoquet.

182

the Shulls for quite a number of years at good advantage to the owners, until steam mills made their appearance at Warsaw, Leesburg and other points and water mills more remote from business centers were more or less abandoned.

The old tannery to the east of the flouring mills was in 1845 conducted by J. Curtice, who we think hailed from York state. He was a fine workman and for several years furnished this section of the county with the best of oak-tanned leather. In later years E. Dustin had a tannery and shoe shop in the old Sadd place at the north end of town.

The old saw mill had an up-and-down saw, which in that day and age answered the purpose first class, but was a slow coach compared to the modern mills equipped with circular and gang saws that will cut up a log almost while the old-fashioned up-and-down saw would be getting off the first slab. But the old settlers of 70 odd years ago were content and more than pleased to be in possession of a means of getting out flooring so much superior to hewing out puncheons with a broad axe for their cabin floors,

In 1844 the old woolen mills were run by F. B. Rowelinson. He manufactured some of the best genuine woolen cloths. A cording mill was connected with the woolen mill and here wool brought in by farmers was put in rolls ready to be spun into yarn by the good wife by the bright fire light in her cabin home.

The Harrises conducted the business done at the tannery, flouring mills, saw mill, woolen factory and large general store up town at the corner west and opposite to the place now owned by William Shull, until 1862, when they sold out to Mr. Stoffer. The latter remained in possession about two years and sold out to Elias Shull, then of Oswego, who had been conducting the Oswego flouring mills. When Mr. Shull took charge of the property he started up a woolen mill in the old Harris tannery. Later on that building was undermined by high waters and wrecked, after which the Shulls moved the woolen mills to the old Harris site, west of the saw mill. They built a new flouring mill on the old site and began operations in 1868. The Shulls continued in business at Monoquet about 30 years.

History of Monoquet.

183

When the business no longer paid the buildings were torn down, the Harris saw mill being the last to go.

Thus what was at one time a paying business at this point became a thing of the past. So much for the manufacturing interests of Monoquet.

In those days, from 1843 to 1852, the street running north from the mills was pretty well occupied on both sides by dwelling houses, all of which we remember quite distinctly. There was Mr. Miller, the miller for Harris & Co., Mr. Duncan, the blacksmith, Mr. Hinks, the shoemaker, Ingerhams, Rev. Sadd, the Underwoods, Andrew P. Koontz, who worked on the saw mill, James Hall and others on the street running down to the river bridge, Dr. Taylor, the postmaster, (a Mr. Lampson was also postmaster at one time,) Nelson Watts and the Bass brothers, John and Albert. On the corner north from the Harris store James Hall built quite a large roomy hotel for those days. He conducted the hotel until his death. The property passed through several hands and later on into the hands of Fred Byrer.

The old hotel being badly run down Mr. Byrer in order to make room for a new dwelling house concluded to move it back and use it for a barn. The building was moved, but before it could be placed on a solid foundation a severe wind storm blew it down.

The Harris general store building was destroyed by fire. On the corner east and opposite to the store was the first printing office in Kosciusko county. The paper was known as the "Kosciusko County Republican" and was owned and edited by Charles Murray, formerly of Goshen, with William Stancliff as foreman. The Republican was a neat little folio, 12 x 17 inches, and was first printed at Monoquet in 1845. It was Whig in politics and contained some pretty sharp criticism on the cause of the Democratic party, or as the editor called them, "the Locofocos." In one of the issues appeared a few lines of poetry written by a man who had left the Democrats and become a Whig, the last of which, after stating why he had changed his politics, was something like this:

And I'll be a Locofoco no more,
A Locofoco no more, A Locofoco no
more,
So I'll be a Locofoco no more.

History of Monoquet.

184

The editorials were in touch with the times and among them was a plea for a pike from Fort Wayne via Columbia City to Warsaw, then much needed by the farmers for the marketing of their grain, there being but one good road to a market, namely, Michigan City. There was also an editorial on the strained relations between the U. S. and England regarding the boundary line of Oregon, and one on the tariff, a subject which is yet a favorite hobby with many political writers.

The Republican was well patronized in the way of advertising by patrons from the village of Monoquet, Warsaw and Goshen. A few of the notices and the names of some of the advertisers may not be without interest and call to mind as they do the names of men who were active in business some 70 years ago. Some of their children, grand children and even their great grand children are filling their places in a business way in the county to-day. From the following notice which appeared in the Republican April 15, 1846, it is evident there were mischievous people then as now who took

a certain degree of pleasure in ill-timed acts to the annoyance of others:

FIFTY CENTS REWARD.—The above reward will be given for the delivery of the window abstracted from the school house in Dist. No. 7 and the detection of the perpetrator of the act. People are requested to keep an eye out, to this purpose, that the ends of justice may be furthered. Such proceedings should find such an end. Signed: Henry Berst. April 15, 1846.

The next two notices give the method then in vogue for taking care of the unfortunate poor, but it was the very best they could do at that time.

TAKE NOTICE.—The undersigned will receive sealed proposals until the first Monday in May next for the keeping of Mr. John H— the ensuing year as a pauper, being a resident of Plain township. William B. Wade, Alex M. Cowen, Overseers of the Poor.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned overseer of the poor in the township of Prairie and county of Kosciusko, on the first Monday in May next, at the dwelling house of Eli Wood in said township, will farm out to the lowest bidder a certain pauper named Martin C—, age 40 years. William Briggs, overseer of the poor.

These are a few names of advertisers in the Republican in 1846: Stephen Duncan notifies the public that he has opened a blacksmith shop in Monoquet together with carriage and smithing manufactory. W. S. Day of Oswego advertises his tannery.

History of Monoquet.

185

F. B. Rowlinson advertises the Monoquet woolen mills. James H. Jacoby advertises his dry goods and grocery store at the northeast corner of Main and Second streets, Oswego. William Williams, attorney at Warsaw. George R. Thralls and John W. Pittinger, drugs, Warsaw. James S. Frazier, councilor at law, Warsaw. Samuel C. Sample and David Synder, attorneys, Warsaw. Samuel Thompson warns those who have been cutting timber on his land to quit it for fear of the consequences that will follow. John Stookey and George Shirland notify the public of the dissolution of their partnership. Rev. J. M. Sadd advertises a Bible and New Testament depository at his home in Monoquet.

The Kosciusko Republican was issued by Mr. Murray a little more than a year when he sold the plant to A. J. Bair and P. L. Runyan Sr. They moved the office to Warsaw, where the paper was continued under the same name. Reuben Williams, then but a mere lad, who in after years became prominent in Indiana as an editor and soldier, set his first stick of type as an

apprentice in the Kosciusko Republican office under Messrs. Bair and Runyan. Runyan remained in the business but a short time when he severed his connection with the office, leaving Bair the sole owner. Mr. Bair continued the publication for some time, but under many trying and perplexing circumstances. Later on H. P. Bair became a partner and a little later A. J. Bair withdrew from the firm. H. P. Bair continued the paper until his death.

After the death of H. P. Bair Billy Williams (who later became a member of congress from this district and a shrewd politician) and G. W. Fairbrother became partners and continued the business for a year, when the paper again changed ownership and passed into the hands of John Rogers and Reuben Williams, with Rogers as editor and Williams as publisher. Mr. Williams strove earnestly to fulfill his part under extremely adverse circumstances, but finding the burden too heavy to bear finally retired, leaving Rogers to continue the paper alone. Rogers made two or three regular issues then missed issues and finally got into some difficulty with the Odd Fel-

History of Monoquet.

186

lows. The lodge retaliated by withdrawing their support and caused the suspension of the Republican altogether.

At the time of the Odd Fellow dispute and the consequent closing of the Kosciusko Republican Reuben Williams and George W. Fairbrother commenced the publication of the Northern Indianian (in 1856) with George W. Copeland as political editor and George R. Thralls as local editor. Fairbrother and Copeland soon moved away, the latter to the west and the former to Goshen. Reub Williams then became proprietor with Thralls as editor. Later on the Northern Indianian was sold to C. G. Mugg and G. W. Elliot.

In 1859 Reub. Williams commenced the publication of a paper known as the "Lake City Commercial." After about nine months of contention between the rival papers the Indianian and Commercial were consolidated, in December 1860, under the supervision of Mr. Williams. In 1861 when the Civil War broke out Williams disposed of his interest in the paper, enlisted in the 12th Indiana and went to the front. He rapidly advanced from

the post of lieutenant to brigadier general. At the close of the war he was appointed assistant controller of the U. S. treasury at Washington. At the time he returned from Washington the Indianian was owned by Carpenter & Hodge. Mr. Williams purchased Carpenter's interest and again took his place on the staff of the Northern Indianian. In a short time he bought out Hodge and became the sole owner. During the time Williams was in Washington Quim Hostler, a former partner, started the publication of the "Warsaw Republican." Later these two papers consolidated under the combined name of the "Indianian-Republican" and run that way until the death of Mr. Hossler. Williams bought the Hossler interest. Soon afterward the firm was incorporated under the name of Reub. Williams & Sons, and under that name the Indianian is still published by a son and a grand son of the founder, Logan H. Williams and his son Raymond B. Williams, and they are the only active members of the company engaged in the publication of the Northern Indianian and Warsaw Daily Times at the present time—1914.

History of Monoquet.

187

The Northern Indianian since it was founded in 1856, some 58 years ago, has never missed a single issue. Here we have a brief history of the paper that is the real successor of the Kosciusko Republican, published in Monoquet in 1845 and 6.

FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE.

The first school house in Monoquet, if our memory serves us right, was a log house built at the north end of the village. This served the purpose until about 1849 or 50, when a neat frame school house was built to the south and east of the present school house. About twenty-five years ago the present neat brick school building was built. This school is one of the few district schools that have not been closed by the consolidation method of the present day. At one time Plain township had seven school houses, but to-day Black's school house, Berst's, the Plains school house, Bone Prairie and Oklahoma have been abandoned. The Monoquet school is still in good running order and is well attended.

MONOQUET'S FIRST CHURCH.

The first church in Monoquet was a frame building located in

the northwest part of town and was owned by the Baptists. When we first knew it the Rev. James Martin was pastor. He preached there and at Oswego for several years. The old meeting house as we remember it, stood with the front to the west and was almost surrounded with hazel brush. On the inside, the pulpit was at the west end, the seats were of slabs from the saw mill. Amid such surroundings were some of our early experiences in attending Sabbath school and church. Later on benches took the place of slab seats. The pastor's house was just a few rods to the north. "Old Daddy Martin," as we used to call him, was a kind, genial, christian gentleman, a man thoroughly devoted to the cause of the Master, never considering any sacrifice too great if it was made for the building up of God's kingdom among men. He lived to a good old age and went down to his grave honored and respected by all who knew him.

The old building later on was purchased by the Methodists and moved east to the south side of what we will call Mill street and was used by them until 1896, when the present brick church

History of Monoquet.

188

was built under direction of Rev. Cosens, then in charge of the Warsaw district. It is a beautiful building and a credit to the citizens of Monoquet and vicinity.

In 1842 Rev. J. M. Sadd, a Presbyterian minister, was sent from Eden, Erie county, N. Y., to Indiana as a missionary and located in Monoquet. They held their meetings in the Baptist church. Mr. Sadd lived there for several years and built a nice residence just south of the present site of the M. E. church. The house was finally destroyed by fire. Mr. Shadd later moved to the south part of the state.

In an early day a project was started to build a north and south railroad. The survey passed through Monoquet just west of the old Baptist church and at that time caused quite a stir. But the surveyors pronounced the route impracticable and it was abandoned. This was the first move toward a north and south road, which in after years was built (now the Big Four) making one of the best paying north and south road in Indiana.

FIRST TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The first temperance society formed in Kosciusko county was

a Washingtonian Society organized at Monoquet in 1842 or 43 under the supervision of Rev. J. M. Sadd. He wrote a Washingtonian pledge which was circulated in Monoquet and vicinity and when quite a number had signed a meeting of the signers was called at the school house and a temperance society duly organized. The organization started out with much enthusiasm and was kept up for a long time. The editor of the Republican printed quite a number of song books for the society. The books were long and narrow, about a column wide, with pasteboard cover into which the leaves were fastened with ribbon.

This was the first movement in the county in opposition to the liquor traffic which is now sweeping not only the county but the entire state and is in fact today a dominant National issue. We hope it may grow in impetuosity and power until the requiem is sung over the dead liquor traffic in every city, town and hamlet in this broad land of ours.

MONOQUET CEMETERY.

The Monoquet cemetery was laid out at an early day on the east side of the State road

History of Monoquet.

189

opposite to the village of Monoquet and on the south side of a road (or rather an Indian trail) which ran in a northeasterly direction across country, coming out on the Oswego road to Leesburg, just below the then Dr. White residence. But few graves in the cemetery today have stones or markers and most of them are interments of comparatively recent date. The graves of quite a number that we know were buried there cannot be located at the present time, but some of them have been moved to other cemeteries. The earliest interments that we notice at the present time are those of Mr. McCaffery of Oswego and John Rees, who died Aug. 29, 1849, and E. Dustin, who died in December 1872. John Rees owned the farm on which the cemetery is located. He had probably the first brick kiln in the county. It was located at a point about half a mile northeast of the cemetery on the old Indian trail to Oswego. He furnished the brick for some of the first brick chimneys in this section and one or two brick sidewalks that were laid in Leesburg; namely, that in front of the Stickney

property, now owned by Mrs. Evans, and, we think that in front of Mike Oswalt's property. It was great sport for the youngsters of Monoquet to go to the Rees kiln while they were burning and many happy hours were spent there making clay marbles and burning them. The old Rees farm is now known as the Andrews farm.

MONOQUET'S FIRST DOCTOR.

Dr. James Armstrong was the first physician who located in Monoquet. In physique he was short and pretty heavy set; a genuine Irishman, jolly and full of life, yet intensely reverent and religious, and like Luke of old while ministering to the wants of the body also cared for the spiritual interests of his patients. He was born in the county of Long Ford, Ireland, Aug. 5, 1810; came to America in 1832, landing at Quebeck, Canada. He remained in Canada until September 1835, when he moved to the city of Buffalo. From there he moved to Eden, Erie county, N. Y., and from there to Monoquet in April 1843. Dr. Armstrong finished his medical education (which had been commenced in the old country) in this country, receiv-

History of Monoquet.

190

ing his diploma from a medical college in New York City in the winter of 1842-3. Shortly after he came to Monoquet a disease of the tongue and throat, known as the black tongue, and very fatal in its nature, prevailed to a great extent in this section and people became alarmed as but few cases recovered. Dr. Armstrong was very fortunate in his treatment of the malady and as a consequence dropped into an extensive practice. He was young and ambitious and practically ended his own career by overwork. He died April 14, 1846. Dr. Armstrong was of a kind, genial, sympathetic nature, a friend to everybody. He made scores of friends all through the county. He was contemporary with Dr. Stacy of Warsaw, Drs. Kendill and Blue of Leesburg and Dr. Harper, who lived at that time on the place just south of Leesburg now owned by George Funk. The following obituary was published at the time of Dr. Armstrong's death by the editor of the Kosciusko Republican:

DIED—In Monoquet on the evening of the fourteenth inst. Dr. James Armstrong, in the 35th year of his age. The deceased was first taken with erysipelas which terminated in inflammation of the

brain, by which his earthly career was closed after great suffering, which he bore with christian fortitude for the space of ten days. Dr. Armstrong's loss will be severely felt by this community and his unexpected exit mourned by a large class of personal friends. But what of his desolate widow and two promising orphan children? The tears of sympathy and consoling words of comfort may be all and the best the world can afford in this hour of their affliction, but the peace of Him alone whose grace is sufficient for the trial of his children, bring balm to the wounded spirit and solace to the greived heart. May its heavenly influences not leave them altogether comfortless or desolate.

Dr. Taylor came to Monoquet shortly after the death of Dr. Armstrong and was quite prominent as a physician. He was at one time postmaster in Monoquet. In the early fifties Dr. Jacob Boss, a German doctor, located in the village and enjoyed an extensive practice for several years. Later on he moved to Warsaw where he accumulated a large amount of property. At the time of his death he owned the farm where Winona Park is now located. Drs. Hutcheson and Robinson were the local physicians in later years.

FOND RECOLLECTIONS.

Among the residents of Monoquet and vicinity seventy years

History of Monoquet.

191

ago of whom we cherish many pleasant memories are Mr. James Guy, known all over this section at that time as Major Guy, a tall slim muscular man then nearly 70 years old, but strong and robust as a man of 40. We recollect when we first saw him with his long hair white as the driven snow falling about his shoulders. We were told by our companion that he was going on 100 years old and we regarded him with something akin to reverential awe. It was late in the fall and quite chilly the morning we passed his cabin. The old gentleman was out at the wood-pile chopping wood, bare-footed, bare-headed and bare-handed, looking strong and robust, seemingly enjoying the cool, bracing air of the morning. The Major was formerly from Virginia, where he held the position of major in the state militia, we think. He was highly respected in the community, lived to clear up his land and erect a neat frame house. He died in the late seventies at the good old age of 95 years. Then there was old Mr. Connor, who lived on his farm north of Monoquet (now owned we think by Wm. Stockey). He was an old British sol-

dier and came to this country with the British army during the war of 1812. He had been with the English army in the Indies and almost every place where the English had possessions. He was an Irishman and as they say, "Birds of a feather flock together," he was often at our home. Many pleasant evenings have we spent seated by his side before the open fire place, listening to him as he told of his exploits and adventures as a British soldier in many lands. There were the Ayers. John and Solomon, Jacob Rosbrugh, the Eliotts, Moses Wallace and others in whose cabin homes we spent many happy hours in those days gone by when the people were more intimate with their neighbors a mile or more away than they are now with their neighbors next door.

Nearly all of the lots in the once prosperous town of Monoquet have been vacated. The houses of that day have either been burned, pulled down or moved away. Marked changes are apparent on every hand in the old town and vicinity. Many of them for the better. Where once stood an unbroken forest

History of Monoquet.

192

today are splendid well-cultivated farms with fine substantial homes and the air of a happy home life enjoyed by a happy contented people. But change is written on every hand and one who knew Monoquet sixty-eight years or more ago would not recognize it today.

Change is written on every side,
On the forests leafy pride,
On the river glancing bright,
On the old town's former might,
All whereon the eye can rest
Shows it legibly imprest.

But such is life—changes every day,
Naught substantial here holds sway;
Changing like the moon

Or the fleecy clouds of June,
Sometimes brightness, sometimes gloom
'Till all's at rest within the tomb.

But beyond earth's shifting clouds that
fly,

In a home beyond the sky,
On a peaceful, quiet shore
We hope to dwell forever more,
Where death's dark domain shall cease,
Where all is steadfast, all is peace.

We come at last to the point
where we can write the word finis
to our history of Leesburg and
Plain township. We do not
claim it is perfect in all things,
but in the main we believe it is
correct. With many thanks to
all who have assisted us in our
work in any way we would say

THIS IS THE END.



JAMES W. ARMSTRONG

Written by F. J. GIBBARD

Although Mr. Armstrong has finished his series of articles we believe it would be unjust to our readers as well as Mr. Armstrong himself to close this sketch of Leesburg and Plain township without giving due space to the one who has not only made this history possible, but also helped to make history for the township, done more toward fighting the town's battles than anyone else and been very instrumental in the upbuilding of the town. Although Mr. Armstrong has scarcely mentioned himself or good deeds in his history, we are going to take the liberty of so doing.

To begin with, James W. Armstrong was born Aug. 28, 1835, in the city of Toronto, Canada, and the following September with his parents moved to Buffalo, N. Y. From there the family moved to Eden, Erie county, N. Y. In April, 1843, the Armstrongs came to the village of Monoquet and James W. Armstrong has been a resident of this state ever

since—about 71 years. Nearly 55 years of this time he has been a citizen of Leesburg.

Mr. Armstrong has undoubtedly spent more years of active service than any other citizen of Kosciusko county. He has been honored by his fellow citizens with several public offices. He was the first town clerk of Leesburg and as such served two or three years. He has twice been elected trustee of Plain township and served six years as president of the school board.

As a soldier James W. Armstrong was mustered into the U. S. Army as a member of Company I 30th Indiana Sept. 24, 1861, for three years or during the war. He reenlisted in Co. D 152nd Ind. February 13, 1865, and received an honorable discharge on Aug. 30, 1865. He is now a member of the Henry Chipman Post, G. A. R., No. 442, and has served that post as Senior Vice Commander and Commander, and is now and has been for several years secretary-treasurer of the

James W. Armstrong

194

old 30th Indiana Regimental association. In fact its mostly thru Mr. Armstrong that this last organization is still intact and holds annual reunions

For twenty years Mr. Armstrong edited and published the Kociusko County Standard, the only prohibition paper ever published in Kosciusko county, and it was mostly through his untiring efforts that saloons were ousted from the county. While his editorials were forcible he never became personal in his attacks, and in this way gained many adherents to the cause of temperance. Although now in his 80th year Mr. Armstrong still delights in writing articles for publication and has furnished the Leesburg Journal with many good items.

Mr. Armstrong has been a member of Leesburg lodge I. O. O. F. and Leesburg Encampment for more than forty years and has twice passed the chairs in both branches of the order. He has been an active member of Leesburg M. E. church for fifty years and served as choirister for forty

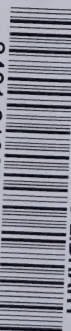
years. During that time he served for fifteen years as president of the board of trustees, superintendent of the Sunday school for fifteen years and as class leader for nearly twenty years. During these fifty years he has served his church in every official capacity from janitor up.

In the year 1857 James W. Armstrong was united in marriage to Miss Mailah Thomas and to them two children were born—Clara and James. He was married a second time April 1, 1866, to Miss Sarah Moon. To this union seven children were born—Mollie M., Nettie M., John E., Nellie P., Lulu B., Chester C. and Hazel D. Armstrong. Three of them, Nellie, Chester and Hazel, have passed away,

And now as Mr. Armstrong has reached the zenith of life he can look back on a career well spent, one that has been full of good deeds, a life that has resulted in much benefit to his friends and the entire community. His acts will live on long after he has passed to his reward.

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